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ARAB TIMES



WEST END WATCH
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NO. 7739 TUESDAY, DECEMBER 12, 1989/JAMADIUL AWWAL 14, 1410 AH 22 PAGES 150 FILLS

Deadline set for economic revival

Sheikh Saad to personally supervise implementation

Officials distorting image of government staff will be chased

By Ahmed Al Jarallah
Editor-in-Chief, Arab Times

THE Kuwaiti government is determined to cut red tape in order to push forward the economic measures recently announced in a special report, said HH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah in an exclusive interview with the Arab Times.

He also set a date for reactivating the economy by implementing the recommendations.

Sheikh Saad further vowed to "chase" all those elements (responsible) for

distorting the image and reputation of government staff.

Sheikh Saad will today chair a high-ranking meeting to "speed up implementation of the recommendations" to reactivate the country's economy.

Sheikh Saad expressed optimism about the future of the economy in Kuwait and said he expects the measures to be implemented by Jan 1990. "By the first month of the new year," he said, "we will have implemented the measures."

The economic report recommended easing issuance of visit visas for businessmen. The Crown Prince and Prime Minister said he has given instructions to the minister of interior to "exert flexibility (in matters) related to issuance of visit visas for businessmen and solve some obstacles facing some commercial activities."

He has also given order to improve commercial transport between Kuwait and the neighbouring states. Sheikh Saad said: "Such facilities (indicate) our wish to restore transit trade to its past glory."

Sheikh Saad stressed he will personally supervise the implementation of the recommendations made in the economic report.

Arab Times Exclusive



HH the Crown Prince



Special Report

Love lost

Part 2

- What Islam says
- What the law says
- Women's rights
- Interfaith marriages
- A woman's story
- Egyptian women married to Kuwaitis
- British women married to Kuwaitis

Pages 12 & 13

Rubia is still alive

Talks with abductors on swap extended

SRINAGAR, Dec 11. (Agencies): A deadline set by the kidnappers of the daughter of India's home minister for the release of five pro-Pakistan Muslim radicals passed today but a senior official said the hostage was not killed and talks on a swap were extended.

Moosa Raza, chief secretary of northern Jammu and Kashmir state and the main government negotiator, said a "lack of communications" stymied a resolution of logistical problems hampering an exchange of the extremists for Rubia Sayeed, 23, a medical intern.

"Talks on the terms and conditions with the captors through a respectable mediator are on," Raza told reporters in the state's summer

capital of Srinagar, 400 miles (640 km) north of New Delhi.

"We are hopeful of an early solution to the satisfaction of both the parties," he said.

There was no word from the extremist Kashmir Liberation Front, which threatened to kill the daughter of newly appointed Home Minister Mufti Mohammad Sayeed unless its demand for the release of the five radicals was met by 7 pm.

Speaking after the deadline expired, Raza said: "We have been assured by reliable sources that the girl is safe and in good health."

65 killed in Lanka violence

COLOMBO, Dec 11. (AP): Pro-government vigilantes are suspected in the killings of 65 people, whose charred or shot bodies were found yesterday and today in south and central Sri Lanka, military officials said.

The officials, who cannot be identified under briefing rules, said they believed the victims were members of the People's Liberation Front, an ultra-nationalist Sinhalese guerrilla group trying to overthrow the government.

The front began its war in 1987 after the Sinhalese government made peace overtures to Tamil secessionists in the northeast. It has continued to attack the government although its six top leaders were killed last month by government forces.

On Sunday, the militants burned 32 government-owned buses in Ambalanota, about 150 km (90 miles) south of Colombo, a government statement said.

Also on Sunday, at least 16 more government-owned buses were torched in other attacks and two train engines and a railroad station were set on fire at Gampha district's Yagoda village, 25 km (15 miles) northeast of Colombo, it said.

To counter the militant violence, human rights groups say, the government this year set up vigilante groups which have killed hundreds of civilians suspected of associating with the front. The government denies the charge.

The latest vigilante killings were reported from the Sinhalese heartland where the front's campaign has centred.



Ensuring the future

A Czech boy sitting on his father's shoulders joins in displaying the V-for-victory sign during a mass rally in Wenceslas Square in which a new Czech government was announced comprised of a majority of non-communists. (Reuter wirephoto) See story on Page 6

Gorby offer to step down

MOSCOW, Dec 11. (Reuter): Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev's reforms were attacked by conservatives at a weekend meeting of communist leaders and he responded by suggesting he could step down, according to official accounts emerging today.

But the offer, which foreign analysts in Moscow said was almost certainly tactical and aimed at demonstrating Gorbachev's underlying strength at the head of the party, was not taken up, the accounts indicated.

Cory wants to search homes

'Laurel clean'

MANILA, Dec 11. (Agencies): Philippine President Corazon Aquino said today she had asked Congress for power to search homes and offices for weapons, while Senate committees warned army rebels might launch another coup attempt.

As a proposed law granting Aquino broad emergency powers was finalised, opposition leaders accused her of seeking "draconian powers" reminiscent of the one-man rule of deposed dictator Ferdinand Marcos.

Aquino had asked for the extra powers to deal with mutineers and rebuild a shattered economy after quelling the sixth and bloodiest coup attempt against her.

"This is not martial law," Aquino told reporters. "What I would like... is to be able to (have) additional powers, specially in the matter of being able to search residences or offices so that we can locate all these firearms and ammunition."

Aquino also told reporters that December talks between Manila and Washington on the future of US bases in the Philippines had been postponed for one or two months because of last week's failed army rebellion.

She denied having compromised Manila's bargaining position in the talks when she accepted US military help to put down the mutiny.

A special congressional committee said today it had found no evidence linking Philippine Vice-President Salvador Laurel to a bloody army coup attempt against Aquino.

Aquino on Friday hinted Laurel might have been involved in the latest army insurrection.

"So far, there was nothing that he did or said that deserves impeachment," said Congressman Hernando Perez, a member of the three-man committee and a known political opponent of Laurel.

"Otherwise, I would be the first to file impeachment charges against him," he told reporters.

House of Representatives Speaker Ramon Mitra created the ad hoc body last Tuesday to see whether there were grounds for impeaching Laurel, who was alleged to have said in an interview in Hong Kong that he was willing to head a military junta to replace Aquino.

Laurel has denied the statement as well as any involvement in the sixth coup attempt against Aquino. But he reiterated his earlier proposal for Aquino and himself to step down so fresh elections could be held.

Aquino also said today she was considering revamping her cabinet, but probably would not replace members this year despite demands by military mutineers and others for sweeping changes in her administration.

In other developments, opposition Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile repeated calls for Aquino to step down, saying she cannot prove she was duly elected president.

Military officials also admitted...

NEWSWATCH

Scowcroft visit

A US desire to head off possible Chinese missile sales to Syria prompted the weekend visit to Beijing by White House National Security Adviser Brent Scowcroft, according to an American television report on Sunday. Details Page 5

Trial null and void

BELGRADE, Dec 11. (Kuna): The trial six years ago of a group of Muslim intellectuals accused of conspiring to set up a Muslim republic in Bosnia has been declared null and void.

A statement to the effect was published in semi-official Borba daily by a neutral team of investigators from the Hague-based World Court besides other neutral concerned organisations.

Nobel prize

STOCKHOLM, Dec 11. (AP): With horns trumpeting in salute, Sweden's King Carl XVI Gustaf presented the coveted gold medals of the Nobel prize to nine laureates from the United States, West Germany, Norway and Spain.

The laureates were to give acceptance speeches at an elaborate banquet Sunday night in an ornate city hall ballroom following the glittering white-tie ceremony at Stockholm's Concert Hall.

Satanic bomber

LONDON, Dec 11. (AP): The appeal court has upheld a three-year jail sentence for a man who admitted a petrol-bomb attack against a mosque because of the "Satanic Verses" controversy.

Lord Lane, the lord chief justice, and two other judges rejected the appeal by Hrach Tchaderjian, 34, a London resident who was born in Cyprus.

Tchaderjian had admitted attacking the living quarters adjacent to the Regent's Park mosque in the early hours of Feb 22. He told police he was incensed by Muslim protests against Salman Rushdie's book "The Satanic Verses" and was appalled by death threats against the author.

Suit dismissed

NAIROBI, Dec 11. (AP): The High Court dismissed as a "non-starter" a controversial suit seeking to bar the ruling party from putting Africa's tallest building in a capital city park popular with the poor.

Weather

CLOUDY weather and rain at times with moderate southeasterly wind freshen at times.

State of sea: Moderate to rough.

High water: 10.00 am, 10.30 pm

Low water: 5.40 am, 5.16 pm

Sunrise: 6.33 am

Sunset: 4.51 pm

Maximum temperatures recorded:

Kuwait: 22°C/72°F

Ahmed: 20°C/68°F

Falaka: 21°C/70°F

Minimum temperatures recorded:

Kuwait: 11°C/52°F

Ahmed: 13°C/55°F

Falaka: 13°C/55°F

Maximum temperatures expected:

Kuwait: 22°C/72°F

Ahmed: 21°C/70°F

Falaka: 21°C/70°F

Maximum humidity recorded:

Kuwait: 82 per cent

Ahmed: 72 per cent

Falaka: 87 per cent

Veiled Iraqi threat to attack Iran with newly developed missiles if Gulf peace talks fail

ANKARA, Dec 11. (Reuter): Iraq has issued a veiled threat that it might attack its Gulf war foe Iran using recently-developed missile technology if peace talks fail.

In an interview published today in Turkey's English-language Daily News, Iraqi Foreign Ministry undersecretary Nizar Hamdoun said Baghdad had developed a new surface-to-surface missile in addition to a space rocket it launched last week.

"Considering the future of Iraq and that Iran has not shown any readiness to conclude a comprehensive peace treaty... in the future Iraq may have to

utilise some of this capability," said Hamdoun, in Ankara for talks about Turkey's plans to dam the Euphrates river.

The Iraqi and Iranian foreign ministers are in New York where they are due to hold separate meetings with Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar on the slow pace of peace talks since a ceasefire halted fighting in the Gulf last year.

Iraq announced on Thursday it had successfully launched a three-stage, 48-tonne rocket capable of carrying a satellite into space, but Hamdoun said this rocket would be used only for peaceful scientific

missions.

Political analysts in the Middle East said the launch, later confirmed by the United States, would send tremors of concern through the region, especially in Israel, Iran and Syria.

"This rocket has nothing to do with any military aspect. It is not a ground-to-ground missile which we have also developed," Hamdoun said.

"The (missile) programme really started in war... it practically took off after Iraqis started to attack Baghdad back in 1985."

Iraq and Iran battered each other's cities with

surface-to-surface missiles during the war but the maximum ranges of Baghdad's weapons were only about half of the newly-developed projectiles.

With the announcement of the space rocket launch, Iraq also said it had developed two types of surface-to-surface missiles with ranges of up to 2,000 km (1,200 miles).

There have been media reports that Iraq has been working with Argentina on the Condor II missile, but diplomats say that tighter Western controls on technology transfers have hindered work on the weapon's guidance system.

Al Fayed restores Windsor castle to its former splendour

PARIS, Dec 11, (AP) The final and favourite residence of the Duke and Duchess of Windsor, restored to its former splendour, reopened its gates in the Bois de Boulogne yesterday to a privileged crowd.

The villa, the property of the city of Paris, was refurbished at a cost of over \$8 million by Mohammed Al Fayed, the Egyptian business tycoon who owns the Ritz Hotel in Paris and

Harrods in London.

"We are celebrating a dream," said Al Fayed as guests sipped tea and champagne in a tent erected in the garden area. "This was a love story of the 20th century."

King Edward VIII gave up his throne in 1936 to marry Wallis Simpson, a twice-divorced American.

Guests for tea party on the 53rd anniversary of his Dec 10, abdication

included Paris Mayor Jacques Chirac, the Earl of Spencer, father of the Princess of Wales, and Lady Spencer, friends of the Windsors, a few former servants and the media.

Al Fayed said he was shocked to see the dilapidated condition of the villa when he visited after the Duchess' death in 1986 — with tags on the furniture and art objects destined for the auction block.

"It was a sight I know would have appalled the Duke and Duchess," he said, having seen the villa in its heyday.

So Al Fayed took things in hand, with the blessings of Chirac and the city. An Anglo-American team of decorators supervised as the leaky roof was repaired, the interior was touched up with paint and tapestries and woodwork were restored.

Guests were greeted by the Duke's

personal valet, Sydney Johnson, 69, who was hired in Nassau when the duke was governor of the Bahamas during World War II.

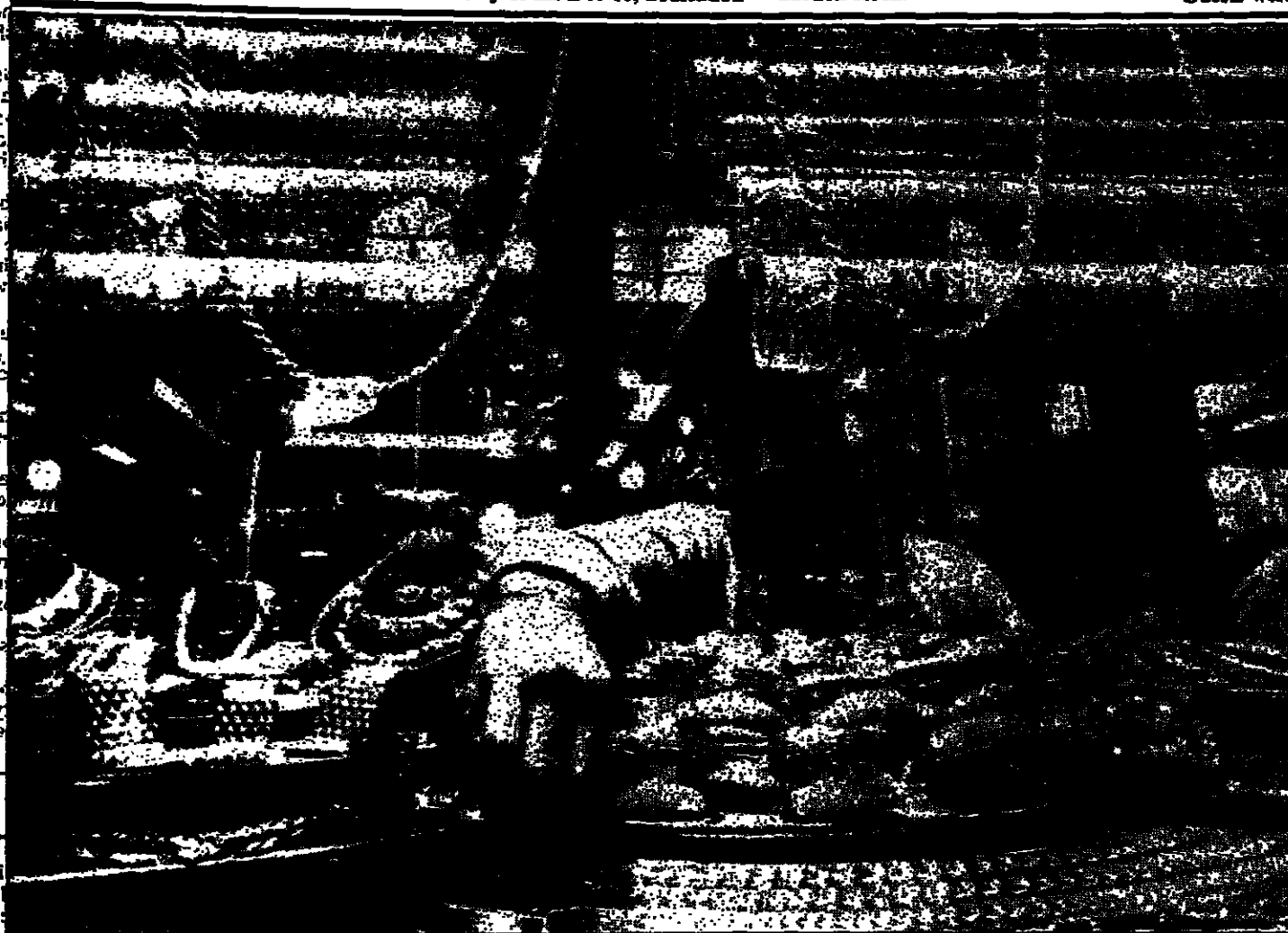
"I feel on top of the world," said Johnson, wearing the gold-braided red livery coat as he had for the Windsors.

The house was refurbished to look as if the Windsors had just stepped out for a stroll in the Bois, complete with books by the beds and brushes and combs in

the bathrooms.

Asked about his plans for the restored mansion, Al Fayed said he would give parties for his friends.

He also said he plans to keep the mansion staffed and open to group visits by special request, and in 1991 will send an exhibition of the mementoes to London and other British cities as well as to New York and Baltimore, the duchess's birthplace.



A gold dealer sorts the golden bracelets and necklaces at his jewellery shop window at the ancient covered-bazaar of Istanbul. (Reuter wire-photo)

Switch love of gold to paper

Officials trying to persuade Turks

ISTANBUL, Dec 11, (Reuters) Turks could pay the government's 36-billion-dollar foreign debt if the gold they have hoarded was liquidated, economists say.

Officials want to persuade reluctant Turks to turn their gold certificates and futures contracts into cash, dismissed as "pieces of paper."

New reforms by the country's Central Bank have sought to cut out smuggling and stabilise gold prices.

Turks have traditionally taken refuge in gold by hoarding it as a hedge against financial uncertainty.

"Gold keeps the money alive. Our people have no faith in paper," said Muharrem Zuluslu, head of the jewellers' association.

Away from the busy traffic around Taksim square are the labyrinthine alleys of the Oriental covered bazaar, an Ali Baba's cave with gold glittering in shop windows. Crowds of paths lined with jewellery shops.

"Gold is always the favourite," gold dealer Güzik Peker explained in a rush. Across his counter, a peasant's wife happily bought a 22-karat gold chain as thick as a baby snake.

"We now have hollow bracelets — two birds with one stone... cheap and striking," said a slick bazaar shopboy. His goods are the latest trend among Anatolian women whose prestige increases with the amount of gold

they wear.

Another gold trader in a small booth under the medieval cupolas cut gold strips and stashed them in a tobacco tin.

"People are buying crazily," he said, his smile revealing a single gold tooth.

Some economists estimate Turks have accumulated at least 500 tonnes of gold. Others say it is even higher.

"Turkey's gold stock is huge... all physical. Now it must be as much as 3,500 tonnes," said Istanbul-based economist Ersin Perlan.

"The 3,500 tonnes is the conservative figure," he added.

More than 80 tonnes of gold have been sold on the new Central Bank-brokered gold market since it opened in April.

The bank transfers its gold imports at cost plus transport and insurance.

Resales to the market amounted to just 10 kilos (22 pounds). The rest is believed to be on its way into the deep holes of the country, nestled beneath lace pillows or in hope chests and mattresses.

Turkish gold production was 75 tonnes in 1988 and 90 tonnes in 1987 according to Consolidated Gold Fields' annual market review. World gold output for 1989 has been forecast at 1,990 tonnes after an estimated

1,512 tonnes in 1988.

Dealers said jewellers buy the bulk of Central Bank gold for manufacturing at per-kilo prices close to world market rates. Formerly the jewellers paid hundreds of dollars more to the smugglers.

Bankers said that the Central Bank market has killed the gold smuggling business of gold smuggled into Turkey each year, forcing smugglers to buy foreign exchange offices and play by the new rules.

But government officials said this is not enough.

They want a gold market where futures and gold certificates can be traded and a spot market that could eventually make Turkey a Middle East centre for worldwide gold trading.

"Investment in physical gold is a dead one. You should hold certificates, futures contracts instead," said an official who requested anonymity.

But to do this, first you have to plunge the country into physical gold trading and then pull it out," he added.

Some dealers say it may take at least another generation for non-physical to replace physical gold.

But officials said it may not be that long given the quickening pace of liberalisation in the country.

A bug in the social soup

WASHINGTON, Dec 11, (AP) There could be a secret micro-phone on the telephone line, in the table lamp or in that briefcase sitting next to the desk.

The country is caught in a wave of high-tech snooping, according to privacy advocates who blame cheap, easily obtainable gadgets that can be bought through the mail, in electronics stores or in "spy shops."

Some examples:

— One-way wireless intercoms. These tiny devices, which can be secreted inside any household electrical device such as a lamp or electric clock, will transmit conversations to a receiver placed on the same electrical circuit, such as from a conference room to a basement. They're available at electronics stores for \$25.

— Spy briefcases. With a flick of their handles, these normal-looking attache cases will record, loud and clear, any sounds in a room for hours. They cost between \$600-900.

— Infinity transmitters. Attach one to a phone and call it from another phone. The bugged phone does not ring. Instead it becomes a microphone that will pick up everything within 30 feet (10 metres) at a cost of less than \$100.

— Baby tenders. These innocuous intercom systems allow parents to monitor an infant's room from another part of the house. The devices also "put out signals" that can be heard by neighbours, or by snoops.

— Voice-activated tape recorders can be put under a bed to catch an unfaithful spouse, or in a pocket to secretly record a conversation. Cost: \$75.

Devices like these — plus computer-bugging gadgets — will be on display this week in Washington at Surveillance Expo '89, which organiser Jim Ross says is the first non-government show to focus on surveillance and counter-surveillance.

One exhibitor will show a belt pager that actually is a tiny TV camera.

"He has a transmitter on his back and a beeper on a belt. Wherever he points the beeper he's broadcasting a picture to a receiver." The device has a range of a "few hundred feet, but could be boosted," Ross said in an interview last week.

"He also has one built into a tie clip and another that looks like a sprinkler head. That's a big seller, he tells me," Ross said.

Another exhibitor will show how to use a telephone line to modify computer programmes that control sophisticated office phone systems. The exhibitor used it "so he could monitor his boss' phone calls," Ross said.

"What we have here is a massive assault on our constitutionally guaranteed right and expectancy of privacy," said Rudolph Brewington, a Washington journalist who claims his ex-wife victimised him as part of a divorce proceeding with a voice-activated tape recorder.

Manufacturers say their devices all have legal uses and that it is up to the buyer, not the seller, to make sure laws are not broken. But Brewington and others say manufacturers know these devices are being used illegally and are doing nothing to prevent it.

Manufacturers "have not developed any type of inhibiting device on these products," they merely sell them," Brewington said in an interview. Even though manufacturers often include warnings about illegal use in their advertising, "they know exactly how the products are being used."

SOUTHAMPTON, New York: A doctor accused of soliciting college students to have sex with his wife in a phony research project was found dead Thursday in an apparent suicide, police said.

Police were called to the home of Rodney Terry Wood, 60, Southampton village police sergeant. Last night, King said Wood was found dead in an apparent suicide but did not reveal other information.

Wood and his wife, Nancy Steffen Wood, 44, were arrested in September in Oregon after allegedly conducting a phony research project that included a sex tour of West Coast college campuses.

Each pleaded guilty to prostitution October 23 and were fined \$2,500.

The couple allegedly visited the University of Oregon campus, telling male students they were "evaluating the sexual potential of the mature female" and would pay participants for taking part in research sessions, police said.

Mrs Wood distributed "letters of introduction" to young men on campus, and men were promised \$10, Eugene police sergeant Rick Gilliam said.

Police were tipped by two students, and an officer, posing as a student, contacted the couple at their hotel. (AP)

TORONTO, Canada: Paul McCartney is singing a slightly different tune now about a possible Beatles reunion.

When he suggested last month that he, George Harrison and Ringo Starr may come together for a reunion, Harrison responded there would not be one "as long as John Lennon remains dead."

McCartney said Thursday he understood. But he still held out hope for a reunion.

"There can't be a Beatles reunion because John died," McCartney told a news conference before his concert at the Skydome. (AP)

PEORIA, Illinois: Tom Stinson is as comfortable flying cross-country as most people are driving to work. He should be; he has racked up more than one million miles in the air on business trips for Caterpillar Inc.

"Flying planes was all I ever wanted to do," he said.

He started out to be a pilot, but an accident during navy flight training affected his vision. So he has flown as a passenger, and logged every run. (AP)

NASHVILLE, Tennessee: The country group Alabama has won the country of the year honour at the first Cash Box magazine Nashville Music Awards.

Patty Loveless and Rodney Crowell were chosen top vocalists at Wednesday night's ceremony at the Opryland Hotel. Crowell also won best country album for "Diamonds and Dirt."

"I'm No Stranger To The Rain" by the late Keith Whitley was voted single record of the year.

Veteran singer George Jones won the Lifetime Achievement Award for long-time contributions to country music. (AP)

BALTIMORE, Maryland: Three young boys tried to rob a city attorney with toy pistols that one of the youths pointed at the attorney's face.

Michael G. Raimondi, an attorney for the city solicitor's office, told police that he and another assistant city solicitor were walking back to City Hall after lunch when they were approached by the boys ages 7, 10, and 13.

The 10-year-old said "gimme a quarter," and when Raimondi refused the youth pointed the toy pistol at his face and pulled the trigger, Raimondi said.

"He did it so quickly, so matter-of-factly," the 33-year-old Raimondi said. "To him it was just a funny joke, but I tell you honestly, some of these kids are selling drugs, and it could have been a real gun." (AP)

'Gone With the Wind' yet they remain

ATLANTA, Dec 11, (AP) Clark Gable and Vivien Leigh have long since died, but at the gala events this week celebrating the 50th anniversary of "Gone With the Wind" they'll be remembered again and again.

For one thing, organisers have invited five pairs of Rhett Butler and Scarlett O'Hara look-alikes.

For another, 11 surviving cast members, many of whom were children when the 1939 movie was made, will have their own stories to tell of the legendary stars, who both died in the 1960s.

The cast members will attend a private reunion Thursday and are expected Friday night at a recreation of the movie's Dec 15, 1939, world premiere.

Fifty years ago, the premiere was the biggest social event in the city's history. The governor declared Dec 15 a holiday, and an estimated 1 million people turned out to catch glimpses of the visiting Hollywood royalty and Atlanta's own Margaret Mitchell, the former newspaper writer whose 1936 novel "Gone With the Wind" catapulted her to reluctant celebrity.

The "re-premiere" will be held at the Fox Theatre since the Loew's Grand Theatre, site of the 1939 premiere, is no longer standing.

A competition between the Rhett and Scarlett look-alikes is set for today, and guests in antebellum dress will attend a "Gone With the Wind" ball Thursday night.

Cammie King Conlon, the actress who played Rhett and Scarlett's young daughter, Bonnie Blue Butler, said the cast reunion will be a chance for her to reminisce with others who appeared in the movie.

"I was 4 1/2 when they did the filming," she said.

"You don't really know how much you remember because people have told you some things," she said. "I certainly remember the pony."

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An early Christmas at Chicago

CHICAGO, Dec 11, (UPI) It didn't take long for a stylishly dressed stranger from Boston to make friends when she started handing out \$100 bills to virtually everybody she met at a south side bar.

The mysterious woman, wearing ruby earrings, started her spree about noon Saturday by presenting three stunned flight attendants at the Carlton Midway Motor Inn lounge with the unexpected cash, the Chicago Sun-Times reported.

"Merry Christmas," she said, sitting down at the bar near the cash register and ordering red wine. She introduced herself as Judy Kelly and said she was in her mid-50s.

Other customers, who had witnessed her generosity made a point to say hello and each was rewarded with a \$100 bill, which she pulled from a bag.

When she ran out of hundreds, Kelly apologized and gave out fifties. When she ran out of \$50 notes, she again apologized and handed out twenties.

Kelly gave \$100 to a truck driver, and another \$50 to his dog, Tuffy. She reportedly gave \$100 to a young woman with two children, and added \$400 more when she heard the woman wanted to leave an abusive boyfriend.

The bewildered bar owners finally called police to investigate.

The police allowed Kelly to continue on her merry way, saying it's no crime to give away money.

Why was she singled out

Killer stabbed one victim

MONTREAL, Dec 11, (UPI) One of 14 slain in Marc Lepine's anti-feminist rampage at Ecole Polytechnique, the daughter of a police official, was killed with a hunting knife, not a gun, police confirmed yesterday.

"Lepine had not run out of bullets," said Andre Tessier, chief of Montreal's organized crime division. "Why did he resort to a knife? We do not know."

"He was apparently in a total rage, intent on killing however he could kill."

The victim, Maryse Leclair, 23, was found by her father, Pierre Leclair, the police public relations director. He had gone to the university Wednesday night when he heard of the shootings. He found his daughter lying on the floor between classrooms. The killer's knife was at her side.

Police do not know why Leclair was singled out.

"We have not been able to link any of the dead women to Lepine," said a spokesman. "As far as we know they were all strangers."

Initially authorities reported

the 14 had been killed with a Ruger semi-automatic rifle purchased two weeks earlier by Lepine, but autopsy results indicated Leclair was stabbed. No blood was found on the knife, police said, indicating it had been wiped clean by the killer.

On the campus yesterday stands of flowers — dabs of pink, purple and white — bloomed in winter snow outside the makeshift mausoleum in Pavilion Z where family members paid last respects. Flower vans formed a long cortege as they pulled up the horseshoe-shaped drive in front of the main building.

The caskets were later transferred to the crepe-shrouded Hall of Honour, perched against a rocky hilltop overlooking the silent campus. Thousands of Canadians, many travelling hundreds of miles, braved winds and chill to pass in front of the closed caskets.

Some carried flowers. Some news clippings. Some left brief notes to the "Filles Formidables" and "Les Femmes du Monde." Some told of personal

loss.

"Dear Ann-Marie, wherever you are," read one. "You always fought the good fight. You never gave up, never threw in the towel, never quit. I'll always admire you."

"I did love you at one time. But being a friend means you accept things as they are and always extend your hand in true trust and friendship."

"I will miss you so much." The note was signed "Tran."

The bodies will be taken today to Notre Dame Basilica in old Montreal where the service will be broadcast live to the nation.

In other developments, police confirmed reports that Lepine, as a child, underwent psychotherapy after his father beat him.

According to 1976 divorce papers filed by Lepine's mother, Monique, she and her two children were placed under the care of a Ste. Justine Hospital psychiatrist. The therapy lasted a year. "There were many wounds to be healed, emotionally and physically," she testified at a divorce hearing.

Hotel queen may face up to 127 years in prison

NEW YORK, Dec 11, (AP) A judge decides today whether Leona Helmsley, the billionaire hotelier, must exchange her designer clothes and country estate for prison garb and a cell.

Mrs Helmsley is to be sentenced in Manhattan's federal court, where she was convicted Aug 30 of evading \$1.2 million in federal taxes.

The 69-year-old Mrs Helmsley could receive up to 127 years in prison if the judge

imposes consecutive, maximum sentences for each of 33 counts.

The judge could give lesser time or spare Mrs Helmsley from prison altogether by sentencing her to probation or community service. She also faces more than \$7 million in fines.

The trial attracted wide attention and featured testimony about the imperious behaviour of Mrs Helmsley, who in advertisements has referred to herself as a queen.

The trial included testimony alleging that

Mrs Helmsley once said, "only the little people pay taxes."

Mrs Helmsley has avoided personal publicity since the daily scrutiny of the two-month trial. She has, however, continued to be featured as a regal perfectionist in advertisements for her hotels.

Mrs Helmsley and her 80-year-old husband, Harry, own a \$5-billion real estate empire that includes 27 hotels. Helmsley was indicted with his wife in 1988 but was found mentally incompetent to stand trial.

150/12/89

Salvador rejects rebels' proposal

CORONADO, Costa Rica, Dec 11, (UPI): Salvadoran officials rejected a new peace proposal offered by the FMLN rebels at the five-nation Central American summit, claiming the peace offering "out of line".

The presidents of El Salvador, Nicaragua, Honduras, Guatemala and Costa Rica began a two-day meeting at an agricultural college outside San Jose, the Costa Rican capital, hoping to pump new life in the area's moribund peace process.

Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega delivered to Salvadoran President Alfredo Cristiani a proposal drawn up by El Salvador's Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front, or FMLN, to end that nation's decade-old civil war.

Salvadoran government minister Mauricio Sandoval said the government rejected the rebel proposal.

Guarantees
Oscar Santamaría, a member of the Salvadoran government team, said Cristiani is not considering the FMLN proposal within the summit discussions, focusing instead on censuring the rebels for launching a massive offensive on Nov 11. More than 2,300 people have been killed in the fighting.

"The proposal is being put aside," Santamaría said. "First, the president must discuss a condemnation of the FMLN for launching the offensive."

The Salvadoran government rejected similar proposals in peace talks held in San Jose in mid-October, saying the rebels must first commit themselves to ending all hostilities.

The new rebel proposal calls for an immediate ceasefire, supervised by international observers, resumption of regular negotiations and human rights guarantees. These would include a lifting of martial law, release of political prisoners and annulment of controversial new "anti-terrorist" laws.

Thousands of demonstrators, many chanting for the release of a US church worker imprisoned in Central America, paraded yesterday through Seattle in a "march for human rights in El Salvador."

Many of the estimated 2,000 demonstrators, who marched with a police escort, carried crosses, while others pounded drums as they chanted slogans supporting human rights.

Signs carried by some of the demonstrators said, "US imperialism out of El Salvador" and "free Jennifer Casolo," the US church worker who is being held in El Salvador on charges of hoarding arms and ammunition for leftist rebels. Casolo maintains she is innocent.

The march also brought out supporters of other causes. One sign said "lift the embargo on Nicaragua," while others said, "death to the apartheid regime in South Africa," and "stop the CIA."

The march was organised by the Church Council of Greater Seattle, which expressed outrage over Casolo's arrest on Nov 26.

Testimony
The Archbishop of San Salvador said yesterday the only witness to the murder of six Jesuit priests had retracted her testimony implicating the military after interrogation and "brainwashing" by US officials investigating the incident.

Lucia Barrera de Cerna was flown to the United States and placed under the protection of the Federal Bureau of Investigation after she witnessed the murder of the six priests, who were pulled out of their beds and shot on Nov 16.

She testified that the killers wore camouflage uniforms like those used by the US-backed Salvadoran army.

Archbishop Arturo Rivera Damas of San Salvador said he had been told by lawyers and churchmen that Barrera was subjected to an aggressive and violent interrogation in the United States.

"Instead of being protected as US representatives in El Salvador had promised, she was subjected to a veritable brainwashing in that country and to the blackmail that she would be deported if she did not tell the truth," Rivera Damas said during a service in a San Salvador church.

State Department spokesmen in Washington were unavailable for comment.

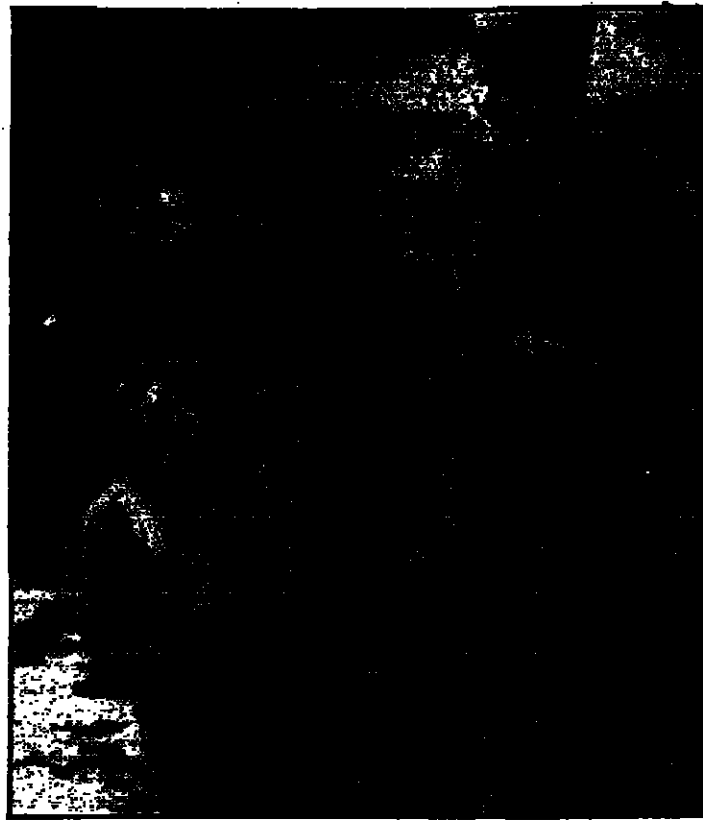
"Church and opposition groups have said the killing of the Jesuits bore the hallmarks of right-wing death squads which have killed thousands of people during El Salvador's decade-long civil war."

"The priests were murdered in the first week of a rebel offensive that began on Nov 11, which has now claimed more than 2,000 lives."



Keeping a wary eye on troops

A very young FMLN guerrilla keeps a wary eye out for Salvadoran government troops Dec 10 near Zacatecoluca east of the capital. San Salvador was quiet today. Right: A young Salvadoran girl makes her way to the water fountain as an FMLN guerrilla patrols the street behind her. (Reuter wirephoto)



Baker, Shev discuss Centam Stress on reducing arms flow into region

WASHINGTON, Dec 11, (UPI): Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze said yesterday he and Secretary of State James Baker agreed last week that the nations of Central America should begin talks on reducing weapons flowing into the region.

In an interview with the American television CBS News programme "Face the Nation," the Soviet foreign minister revealed he had an hour-long telephone conversation on Thursday with Baker in which they "discussed Central America ... and some other questions as well."

"We suggested — and I think that's an interesting proposal that should be seriously discussed — we suggested that talks should begin between Central American countries about reducing weapons generally," Shevardnadze said. "Those talks, I think, must begin, should begin."

"The question is how many weapons those small states (in Central America) need in order to insure their national security," Shevardnadze said.

Baker, appearing on the American television ABC News programme "This Week

with David Brinkley" said he urged the Soviet leader in the discussion to put more pressure on Cuban President Fidel Castro and Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega to halt the flow of Soviet weapons to the Salvadoran FMLN forces, or Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front.

"I undertook to communicate to him some specific matters with respect to our position on Central America that I had not had a chance to communicate at Malta as a consequence of a (storm) shortened schedule," Baker said.

One dies in melee

Pre-poll clash in Nicaragua

MANAGUA, Dec 11, (UPI): Government supporters clashed yesterday with backers of the opposition in an "all-out battle" at a UN election rally that left one person dead and 18 wounded.

The melee ended when opposition supporters attacked and burned the Sandinista Front campaign headquarters in rural Masatepe, according to a UN election observer who travelled to the town 25 miles (40 km) south of Managua to investigate the report. A car and a house next door to the campaign office also were burned.

The melee erupted about 11:30 am and lasted about two hours. The fighting occurred in the streets between combatants armed with baseball bats, knives, machetes and sticks, witnesses told the UN observer, who asked that his name not be used.

Police said they were investigating the case. Opposition representatives blamed the government for the violence at the rally, which was being led by United Nicaraguan Opposition presidential candidate Violeta Chamorro and her running mate, Virgilio Godoy.

"This is a manoeuvre by the Sandinista Front to terrorise the opposition," Godoy told opposition radio El Momento.

Vice-President Sergio Ramirez said on government television that UNO supporters initiated the fighting. President Daniel Ortega, attending a five-nation regional summit in Costa Rica, was informed of the incident but had no immediate

comment. Most of the wounded were UNO supporters, the UN observer said.

"The (opposition's) usual confrontations with Sandinista supporters apparently got completely out of control," he said. "At one point it became an all-out battle. This is a very serious escalation of election violence."

The man who was killed was with a group of opposition supporters but also had family ties to the government, the UN observer said, citing reports obtained from the opposition and from the man's family.

Chile: Hundreds of thousands of supporters of Chilean opposition presidential candidate Patricio Aylwin packed a park in central Santiago yesterday at the close of his campaign for Thursday's elections, the first in nearly two decades.

"This multitude does not represent just support for me, it is the expression of faith in the future of a united Chile, a democratic Chile," the veteran dissident leader told the rally.

Brazil: With Brazil's first presidential election in 29 years just one week away, opinion polls show left-wing candidate Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva drawing closer to right-wing frontrunner Fernando Collor de Mello.

A Gallup poll gave Collor, a wealthy populist who wows the poor, 48.2 per cent. Lula, Brazil's best known trade union leader, had 42 per cent. Two weeks ago a Gallup survey showed Collor with 50.3 per cent and Lula with 36.6 per cent.

Bolivian trafficker

Ex-minister extradited

LA PAZ, Bolivia, Dec 11, (UPI): An ex-minister of the interior, former Col Luis Arce Gomez, was extradited today to the United States where he is wanted on charges related to drug trafficking, a senior Interior Ministry official said.

Gomez was arrested yesterday near the city of Santa Cruz, 350 miles (560 km) east of La Paz and placed on a plane that left for

Miami at 7:30 am, the official said.

Bolivia and Peru are two of the key producers of coca leaves, which are processed into cocaine in countries such as Colombia before shipment to the United States and other consumer countries.

Colombia has extradited numerous drug trafficking suspects to the United States.



Chamorro campaigns

Opposition presidential candidate Violeta Chamorro gestures to the crowd during a campaign rally in Masatepe 30 miles off Managua Dec 10. At her right is vice-presidential candidate Virgilio Godoy. The rally and march were marked by stone-throwing clashes between youths supporting Chamorro and others backing the Sandinista government. (Reuter wirephoto)



Aylwin supports

Hundreds of thousands of supporters of Chilean opposition presidential candidate Patricio Aylwin pack a park in central Santiago Dec 10, at the close of his campaign for Dec 14 polls. (Reuter wirephoto)

French President under pressure

PARIS, Dec 11, (UPI): President Francois Mitterrand, accused of spending too much time on European events, is under growing public pressure to spend more time on domestic issues, especially immigration, political experts said yesterday.

The Socialist President scheduled a live television interview with four well-known journalists. Fundists said interviewers were sure to grill him on the emotional issue of integrating foreign immigrants to France.

An opinion poll published by the Journal de Dimanche newspaper said immigration and the tangentially related issue of unemployment were the main problems the French wanted Mitterrand to address during the rare interview on Antenne 2 television.

Immigration and related issues have dominated French domestic politics this year. Socialist Prime Minister Michel Rocard's minority government received a nasty jolt a week ago when right-wing extremist Jean-Marie Le Pen's National Front Party won a Bellweather legislative election in the central city of Dreux. It narrowly lost another in a district of the southern port of Marseille.

The one-eyed Le Pen has been at the forefront of a furious national debate on immigration and the absorption of immigrants into society. It revolved around a campaign by three teenage Muslim girls to be allowed to cover their heads with scarves or chadors at a high school.

Le Pen, a burly former paratrooper who lost his eye in a street battle with a group of Arabs, only mustered 11.5 per cent of the vote in the last general elections of June 1988.

But political sources said Mitterrand is under heavy pressure from the Socialist Party rank-and-file to turn his attention to the immigration issue and try and roll back the right-wing backlash.

Some Socialists believe that ordinary Frenchmen were unnerved by Mitterrand's performance at the European Economic Community leaders' two-day summit that ended at Strasbourg on Saturday.

Mitterrand, currently the rotating president of the European Economic Community, roundly defeated British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher by obtaining an 11-1 vote in favour of holding an inter-governmental conference on monetary union next year and also in favour of setting up a social charter for Europe guaranteeing workers' rights.

But many Frenchmen are known to be uneasy about the summit's endorsement of the reunification of Germany. Neo-Gaullist leader Jacques Chirac said Saturday that Mitterrand had obtained no real concessions from West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl in return for that endorsement.

The Ipsos opinion poll for the Journal de Dimanche said 68 per cent of French are in favour of "immediate and collective" expulsion of illegal immigrants.

Cristiani offered to renew talks with the FMLN if it guaranteed to halt attacks on non-military targets in El Salvador before a formal stop to the hostilities on Feb 15.

Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega, who has been fighting an eight-year war against US-backed Contra rebels, has demanded the rebels be disbanded from their base camps in Honduras.

During the last regional summit it was agreed the Contras should withdraw by Dec 5. But Nicaragua recently launched a new offensive against Contra guerrillas inside its territory, and the rebels have refused to leave Honduras.

Doctors reattach woman's scalp: Doctors reattached the scalp of a woman after it was ripped off when her hair got tangled in a machine at a yarn mill.

Sheila Mobbs, 33, was in satisfactory condition yesterday, and was moved out of an intensive care unit at university hospitals, said a nursing supervisor.

The accident occurred Friday at the Leaburg Yarn Mill in northeastern Alabama. Mrs. Mobbs' husband, Jimmy, said his wife didn't know how the accident occurred, but she fell and her ponytail became entwined in the spinning machine. (AP)

Woman wins record jackpot: A 21-year-old woman has won a record national lottery prize of nearly \$2 million (\$3 million), Irish lottery officials said yesterday.

"I don't know how I'm going to spend the money," said Philomena Connolly, of roundstone in county galway who is engaged to be married next summer.

No one had won the lottery for three weeks and the first prize had grown to \$1,940,852 (about \$2,891,870) when Ms. Connolly chose the winning numbers: 7, 9, 21, 23, 25 and 33. (AP)

Monk confesses to stealing relics: A former novice monk has confessed he masterminded the theft from a monastery in northern Greece of priceless Byzantine relics, including a wooden fragment reputed to be a piece of the cross on which Jesus Christ was crucified.

Police said yesterday that the 40-year-old novice, who was not identified, named his accomplices and admitted the theft after his arrest three days ago. Five other people have since been detained.

Church bells in the monastic community of Mount Athos pealed joyfully after police announced they had found the relics, including the piece of the Holy Cross and its golden case. (Reuter)

Crime in Denmark does pay: Embarrassed Danish officials are perplexed about an ice fishing law which makes it cheaper for Danes to break the law than abide by it.

They want to charge fishermen 500 crowns (\$70) for a permit to cut holes in the ice but the fine for illegally making a hole is only 200 crowns (\$27).

"We can't have a situation where it costs more to get a permit than to pay a fine," said Justice Minister Hans Engell. (Reuter)

Delta 2 rocket delayed: The launch of an air force Delta 2 rocket carrying \$65 million military navigation satellite yesterday was postponed at least 24 hours because of trouble with a second-stage fuel investigation system, officials said.

It was the nation's second major launch delay in three days since Friday night's rain-out of the maiden flight of a commercial Titan 3 rocket carrying two foreign-owned communications satellites. (UPI)

British soldiers hurt in blast: Three British soldiers were slightly injured in a bomb blast, one of two explosions in the centre of Londonderry early today.

British police said there were no reports of injuries after the first explosion at dawn today.

Soon afterwards a second explosion went off, shattering a wall. The area around the blasts remained sealed off this morning while security forces checked for possible further bombs. (Kuna)

UK ship epidemic: Doctors in London warned today that Britain's worst ship epidemic in decades is likely to claim yet another victim. It is among vulnerable groups of the population health care workers.

They pointed out that those most at risk are sufferers of heart and chest conditions, the elderly and children.

The Times newspaper reported that a British girl aged 16 months and a boy aged seven years died at the weekend after catching the illness. Some hospitals in England are seeing a 50 per cent increase in demand for beds for his patients. (Kuna)

Pope Canonises belgian cleric: Pope John Paul II yesterday canonised a Belgian cleric and teacher who died early in the 20th century, hailing him for his obedience and humility.

The ceremony elevating Brother Marie Wiaux to sainthood took place during a mass at St. Peter's Basilica attended by 10,000 pilgrims, including Belgian Prime Minister Wilfried Martens.

Wiaux was born in 1841 in Mellet and entered the Brothers of the Christian Schools at Gosselies at age 15. He taught design and music to children for 48 years at the school at Mellema. (AP)

500 protesters march on US: Thousands of protesters marched today in San Francisco against the US military presence in Central America. The march was part of a series of protests against the US military presence in Central America.

John J. O'Connor to temporarily halt mass as police carried out dozens of protesters on Saturday.

More than 100 people were arrested yesterday and three police officers sustained minor injuries, authorities said.

Inside, where 43 were arrested, demonstrators chained themselves to poles and lay in the centre aisle.

Outside, about 4,500 people marched along fifth avenue, with some holding signs such as "curb your dogma" and "Pope John Paul for Ayn Rand."

Andorrans elect parliament: Getting a peseta (one cent) or a glass of wine for their trouble, Andorrans voted yesterday for a new parliament in their tiny mountain principality where political parties are banned.

The four-year term of the 28-seat council General de Les Valls (General Council of the Valleys) will be a crucial period for the tax-free principality perched on the Pyrenees between France and Spain. (Reuter)

Police find mafia cemetery

Gangster sings

PALERMO, Sicily, Dec 11, (Reuter): Italian police have uncovered an apparent "mafia cemetery" for victims of gangland warfare in the Sicilian capital.

A tipoff from a mafia informer has led police on a grisly trail for secret death-chambers.

Doctors said yesterday that police had dug up human bones under a motorway flyover on the outskirts of Palermo.

They said the bones had been buried "a number of years ago" and a search was going ahead for more human remains.

And investigators were seeking other secret burial sites indicated by 37-year-old informer Francesco Marino Mannoia, whose 250 pages of testimony were made available to police and Palermo magistrates last week.

In his statement, Mannoia, the first informer from the ruthless and powerful Corleonesi clan, said the mafia had built "death chambers" along the banks of a Palermo river which has become an open sewer.

Victims, including strangled rival clan members, were put in acid baths in the chambers and then dumped in the river, he said.

Police say that as a result of arrests last week based on Mannoia's evidence they had seized a large number of documents, including evidence of a protection racket in Palermo.

A spokesman said during one raid in the southeast of the city, a black-bound exercise book had been found containing the names of about 50 local businessmen and professional people.

Alongside each name was a figure in lire which police believe represents the sum of money they were expected to pay for "protection". The month the money was paid was also listed.

Among other documents was a list of payments paid to lawyers who have defended mafia detainees. Police say much of the documentation confirms what was already known about the mafia clans, that they guarantee their members legal defence as well as taking care of their families while they are in prison.

Mannoia, sentenced in 1987 to a long jail sentence, said the Corleonesi were paying his wife a million lire (\$766) a month.

Mexican arrested on new charges

LOS ANGELES, Dec 11, (UPI): A prominent Mexican businessman facing federal perjury charges in a case related to the slaying of a US drug agent has been arrested on new charges in a sealed indictment, authorities said yesterday.

The federal indictment containing the new charges against Ruben Zuno Arce, 52, brother-in-law of former Mexican president Luis Echeverria, is expected to be unsealed today.

US, Japan will co-ordinate policy on China

TOKYO, Dec 11, (Reuters): Japan and the United States have agreed to closely co-ordinate their policies toward China after a surprise US mission to Peking, a senior Japanese Foreign Ministry official said today.

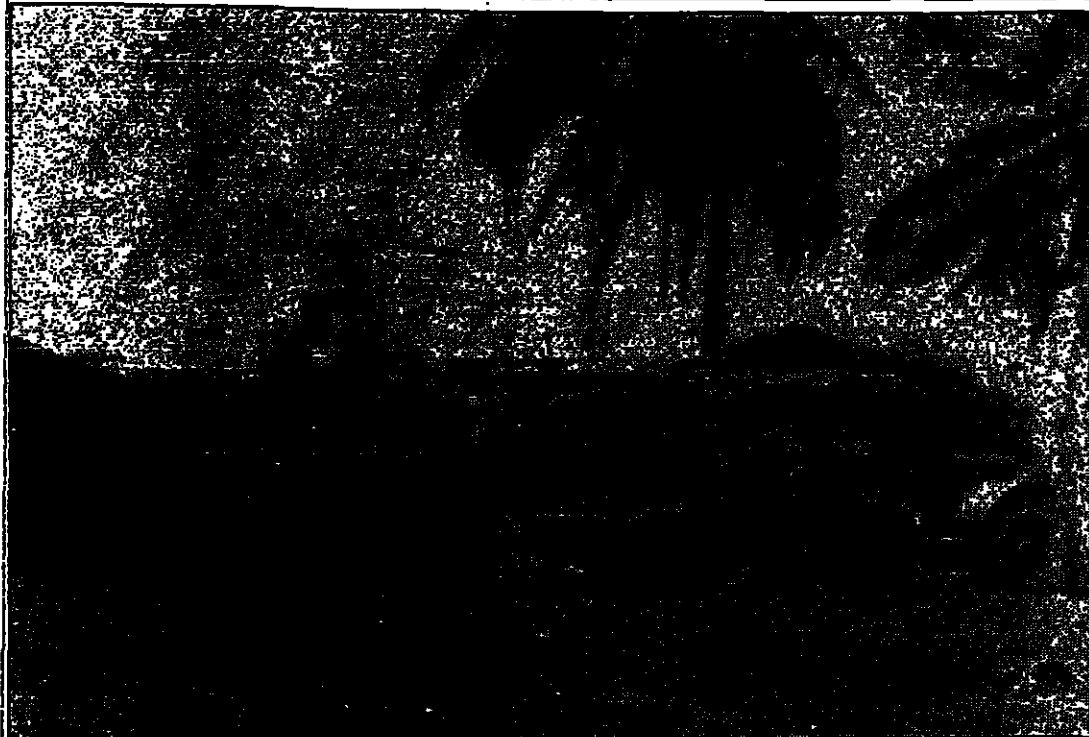
The official, who declined to be named, said Japanese officials said this was unlikely to mean Tokyo would immediately take steps toward improving ties with Peking, such as resuming official new financial credits to China or sending a special envoy there.

It was the first high-level contact between Washington and Beijing since China's crackdown on the pro-democracy movement in June.

Secretary of State Lawrence Eagleburger, flew to Tokyo yesterday to brief Japanese leaders about his China visit.

He met Japanese Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu yesterday and Foreign Minister Taro Nakayama today.

Scowcroft was quoted as saying to Kaifu, "We have welcomed the latest US diplomatic initiative, saying it was not work closely with Japan on China, Japanese officials said."



Ready for evacuation

French troops set up a tented camp on Mayotte island on Dec 10 to prepare for the possible evacuation of foreign nationals from Comoro Islands, which have been taken over by a group of white mercenaries. (Reuters wirephoto)

Habre Hit men linked wins a 7-year term

NDJAMENA, Chad, Dec 11, (AP): Voters have approved a new constitution and given President Hissene Habre a seven-year term in office, the state-run radio announced today.

It was a surprise, as Habre's exact vote totals from yesterday's referendum, and official results were not expected until late in the week.

Overwhelming approval of the referendum's single question, approving a new constitution and giving Habre a new seven-year term in office, had been expected.

The Interior Ministry issued a preliminary report this morning on voter turnout, saying that in roughly a third of the polling stations 99.06 per cent of the eligible voters cast ballots. Early statistics were mainly from the capital, N'Djamena, with reports from the countryside expected to come in more slowly.

While the polls had been scheduled to close at 6 pm (1700 GMT) yesterday, many stayed open late into the night in N'Djamena to accommodate long lines of people waiting to vote.

Habre, who has ruled since driving the Libyan-backed Goukouni Oueddei from N'Djamena in 1982, said as he voted early yesterday that the ballot marks "the country's entry, after so many years of grave changes of fortune, into the era of democracy and the rule of law."

Chad's last elections were for the national assembly in 1969. The nation has been in turmoil almost constantly since becoming independent in 1960.

The 1962 constitution was suspended in 1975, and since then affairs have been run under temporary frameworks of laws imposed by a succession of rulers.

President Ali Saibou, running unopposed, was elected to a seven-year term as head of Niger, the government said today.

The official results said 94.65 per cent of Niger's 3.5 million eligible voters cast ballots in yesterday's election, and 99.6 per cent voted for Saibou.

Eleven of them were killed near the Indian Ocean city of Durban, where arsonists set fire to 40 shacks in Ntuzuma black township. Among the victims were three who were set on fire by mobs, three who were shot dead

and three were hacked to death. The two other victims were shot by police who said they defended themselves after a gang opened fire on a patrol, the report added.

Civil rights activists said the overnight fighting was one of the worst bouts of violence this year between the Zulu-based Inkatha movement and other United Democratic Front anti-apartheid groups.

The newspaper said the unnamed organisation could have links with the military intelligence branch of the armed forces.

"Its tentacles stretch far and wide and have penetrated vital areas of public and private life, as well as government agencies," the newspaper said in a front-page story. It said members included doctors, lawyers and prominent athletes.

Confirmed Police headquarters confirmed that investigations of suspected white extremist groups were in progress, but gave no other details.

Several anti-apartheid leaders have suggested that police disclosures about suspected extremist hit squads are part of an effort to divert public attention from allegations that death squads within the ranks of the security forces have assassinated numerous government opponents in the past decade.

Dennis Worrall, co-leader of the Anti-Apartheid Democratic Party, said yesterday he believed the government was seeking to cover up official involvement in the deaths.

Worrall said any extreme-right assassination squads should be uncovered. But said current investigative efforts should focus on "state-planned murders."

In Natal, which for many years has been the scene of gang wars between rival anti-apartheid movements, 16 people died in a spate of burnings, lootings and murders, police said.

Eleven of them were killed near the Indian Ocean city of Durban, where arsonists set fire to 40 shacks in Ntuzuma black township. Among the victims were three who were set on fire by mobs, three who were shot dead

Refugee return in 24 hours

HONG KONG, Dec 11, (Reuters): The mandatory return of Vietnamese boat people declared illegal immigrants by Hong Kong is expected to start within the next 24 hours, diplomatic sources said today.

US trip to China tied to missiles

Assurances sought

WASHINGTON, Dec 11, (Reuters): A US desire to head off possible Chinese missile sales to Syria prompted the weekend visit to Beijing by White House National Security Adviser Brent Scowcroft, according to an American Television report yesterday.

The Cable News Network, quoting a congressional source, said the US mission was sent to "try to discourage the Chinese from selling ballistic missiles to Syria and Libya."

The missile in question is the ground-launched M-9 which has a range of about 375 miles and would put about 10 Middle Eastern countries, including Israel, within reach of Syria.

China has signed an agreement to sell the missile to Syria, but has not begun deliveries, according to Arab press reports, congressional experts and private US analysts.

Secretary of State James Baker said yesterday that Scowcroft, accompanied by Deputy Secretary of State Lawrence Eagleburger, was sent to repair ties with Beijing and stop China slipping into international isolation.

The surprise visit was to brief Chinese leaders on the meeting in Malta this month between US President George Bush and Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev, Baker said on ABC television's "This week with David Brinkley."

Later, in reply to reporters' questions, Baker said the missile issue was a "good example of why it's important to talk."

"We have had discussions with the Chinese government about missile proliferation, which is something that does seriously concern us," he said.

Bill Harlow, a White House spokesman, denied the Beijing trip was motivated chiefly by concern over the M-9 missile, which some US arms experts believe China is negotiating to sell to Libya.

But a Senate aide who monitors relations with China pinned the timing to an administration decision, expected by Friday, that would clear the export of US-made communications satellites for launch on China's Long March rockets.

He said the administration clearly felt compelled by Congress to obtain missile non-proliferation assurances from China before taking the politically risky step of licensing the satellites for export.

Hughes Aircraft, which built the satellites, sold one of them, dubbed Asiasat, to an international consortium based in Hong Kong. The Australian government owns a majority share of the other two, known as Aussats.

The launch of these craft by China became enmeshed in larger disputes last June. Bush must certify to Congress that granting the export licences is in US national security interests.

Hughes has asked the Senate Department to decide by Friday so it can ship Asiasat to China in time for its scheduled launch in April.

The Senate aide said this deadline appeared to be an "action-forcing" event that could explain the timing of the Scowcroft mission.

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Nakashima, 87, dies

Chronicles of Hiroshima

TOKYO, Dec 11, (UPI): Satoru "Leslie" Nakashima, the first journalist to describe Hiroshima's devastation by a US atomic bomb and who covered Japan for United Press International before and after World War II, died Friday at age 87.

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Nakashima, a native of Kauai Island, Hawaii, died of a brain haemorrhage, his wife, Yachiko, reported today.

His eyewitness report describing Hiroshima's devastation soon after the end of World War II made headlines in many newspapers around the world and earned Nakashima widespread recognition.

Nakashima, better known by his nickname Leslie, started his journalistic career with Star Bulletin, a major daily in Hawaii, after his graduation from McKinley High School.

He suffered a stroke two years ago and underwent rehabilitation at Tokyo's Keio University hospital, then was transferred in March to a hospital run by his son-in-law in Iwaki, north of Tokyo, where he died Friday morning.

Besides his wife, Nakashima is survived by two daughters, Kazuo and Kei.

INTERNATIONAL



Czechs cheer new government

Czechs shout and cheer for joy as a new government is announced during a rally in Wenceslas Square. Leading Czech dissident Vaclav Havel's name was put forward for president. (Reuters wire-photo)

name was put forward for president. (Reuters wire-photo)

Berlin initiative

German unity

Kohl vacillates

WEST BERLIN, Dec 11, (Reuters): Ambassadors of the four World War Two allied powers met today for the first time in 18 years to discuss the future of Berlin, and the Soviet Union expressed favourable interest in a Western initiative aimed at improving conditions in the divided city.

A joint statement issued after the 2 1/2-hour meeting at the former allied control authority building in West Berlin said the four powers — the United States, the Soviet Union, Britain and France — might hold further talks.

"The Western ambassadors set out their proposals under the Berlin initiative. The Soviet ambassador expressed favourable interest," the statement said. That initiative, launched by then-US President Ronald Reagan in 1987, aims to make Berlin an international crossroads, easily accessible by air and open for contacts across the wall and even for a jointly-hosted Olympic Games.

Moscow initially responded dismissively. But with the wall breached and superpower ties on a new footing, the Russians decided to shift tack and call for talks.

The ambassadors — the Western envoys in Bonn and the top Soviet diplomat to East Berlin — declined to answer questions as they posed for photographs at the front entrance beneath the four countries' flags.

West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl, in West Berlin for a meeting of his ruling Christian Democratic Party, welcomed the four-power talks.

"I am thankful for every initiative that takes us forward and brings greater openness and other sensible advantages for the people," he said. The last time the four ambassadors met for joint talks was in 1971 when they negotiated a landmark quadripartite agreement setting out the powers' rights and obligations in Berlin, divided into four sectors after the war.

Today's statement said the four diplomats agreed on the importance of stability and that the 1971 accord would help ensure that.

The Soviet Ambassador (Vyacheslav Kochemasov) made some general comments which the Western ambassadors will report to their governments, the statement said without elaborating.

WEST BERLIN, Dec 11, (Reuters): West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl, whose policy on reunification has been criticised at home and abroad, said today that his plans for German unity did not envisage a confederation of the two German states.

He told a meeting in West Berlin of leaders of his Christian Democratic Party that because East and West Germany were members of rival military alliances, confederation would raise issues that could not be solved at the present time.

In a 10-point plan announced on Nov 28, Kohl proposed the restoration of German unity by stages, building on a series of what he called confederative links. It was criticised in East Germany as aiming at its annexation and caused concern in Western capitals because a major statement on the sensitive subject of reunification was issued without prior consultation.

US Secretary of State James Baker will meet Kohl in West Berlin tomorrow during a brief European tour aimed at harmonising the Western approach to the reunification issue.

Kohl was at pains today to emphasise that while reunification of the German state remained the aim of his party, German and European policy were indivisible and that German unity could be achieved only when the continent itself was united.

He said it had never been his party's objective "to establish an over-powerful Germany in the centre of Europe."

Kohl said the European Economic Community should quickly conclude trade and co-operation agreements with East Germany and that the states of the Warsaw Pact now undergoing a process of reform should have associate status in the community.

West Germany's opposition Social Democrats today unveiled a programme for German unity involving a confederation of the two German states.

The proposal has similarities with a 10-point unity programme launched by Kohl last month.

Social Democratic (SPD) leader Hans-Jochen Vogel told a news conference his plan differed from Kohl's in that it favoured a confederation in which both states continued to exist but conceded some sovereignty to a new supra-national body.

A draft declaration said the SPD wanted to work towards "a state of peace in Europe in which the German people regains its unity through free self-determination. This is our goal."

"The nation owes it to the Germans in East Germany that we can now begin to realise what for a long time appeared to be utopian — completing the unity and freedom of Germany," it added.

Thousands of pro-reform demonstrators gathered in the centre of Leipzig, East Germany, today for a protest which could mark a crucial test for new reformist communist leader Gregor Gysi.

Crowds began gathering earlier than usual as opposition leaders urged the demonstrators to ensure the rally remained peaceful.

statement said without elaborating.

Britain's Sir Christopher Mallaby, US Ambassador Vernon Walters and France's Serge Boidevaux represented the Western powers that control West Berlin.

It was widely expected that the envoys would talk about the political turmoil in East Germany and about growing calls there and in West Germany for

confederation or even reunification.

An allied spokesman was unable to say if these matters were discussed.

He said the four ambassadors met around a green table on the third floor of the five-storey control authority building which has been virtually empty since 1948, when Moscow pulled out of the four-power management of occupied Germany.

It was widely expected that the envoys would talk about the political turmoil in East Germany and about growing calls there and in West Germany for

NEWS IN BRIEF

Korean unity attainable: South Korean President Roh Tae-Woo, taking note of the changes sweeping Eastern Europe, said that Korean unification may be more easily attained than the increasingly discussed merger of the two Germanys.

Communist North Korea "can no longer cling to its extreme isolation," Roh said in a nation-wide radio and television address.

Roh noted that the two Koreas fought a bloody three-year war while the two Germanys did not, and there had been considerable exchange between the two Germanys while there have been little between the two Koreas. (AP)

Vietnam, Soviets discussion: Soviet Vice Foreign Minister Igor Rogachev, in Vietnam for a three-day visit, has held talks on Cambodia and signed a two-year plan of co-operation between the two nations, the official radio Hanoi reported.

It was not clear from Sunday's report when Rogachev arrived in Vietnam, but sources at one Western embassy in Bangkok noted the radio report was the first mention of Rogachev's visit in the official media. A transcript of the broadcast was seen in Bangkok today. (AP)

Greek polls in March, April: Greek Conservative Party leader Constantine Mitsotakis, in remarks published today, predicted the third national election in 12 months would take place next March or April.

"We're headed for elections on April 8, or in the last two weeks of March," Mitsotakis, who controls the largest party in parliament, told the daily Apogromatini (afternoon) newspaper.

Mitsotakis joined an all-party national unity government with the other main parties — the Socialists and Communists — after inconclusive election on November. (Reuters)

45 die in bus-truck crash: An overloaded bus and a truck collided head-on in Lampung, south Sumatra, killing at least 45 people and injuring 20, a newspaper reported.

Quoting unidentified witnesses, the daily Pelita said a stalled car parked on the roadside apparently prevented the two drivers from seeing each other as they approached from opposite directions Saturday in the town of Tanjung, about 185 kilometres (115 miles) northwest of Jakarta. (AP)

Czechs march to support new govt

Austrian border fencing dismantled

PRAGUE, Dec 11, (Agencies): Sirens wailed, horns honked and bells pealed at noon (1100 GMT) today in Prague and other cities to mark a dramatic opposition victory that ended the communists' 41-year domination of the government.

Around Prague's Wenceslas Square, the site of huge pro-democracy protests the last three weeks, thousands of Christmas shoppers and workers on lunch break joined in the three-minute demonstration of support ringing tiny bells or shaking their keys.

The state-run news agency CTK said all concrete pillars, wiremesh and barbed wire fences are to be removed by Dec 31.

The three-minute brief demonstrations in Czechoslovakia took the place of a planned general strike that was called off yesterday by opposition leaders after their stunning success in overturning communist domination of the government.

In Brno, opposition leaders said the midday action was to show support for opposition leader Vaclav Havel, who is considered a favourite to succeed Husak. Other candidates include 1968 reform leader Alexander Dubcek, 68.

Posters plastered throughout central Prague showed a smiling Havel with the caption, "Havel to the Castle," a reference to the seat of the presidency.

The 53-year-old playwright told a cheering crowd of 100,000 in Prague yesterday that the new government was "a great success."

"This peaceful revolution was... against violence, dirt, mafias, privileges, persecutions," the once-banned playwright said in the nationally televised speech. "Let us preserve its purity, peacefulness, love and merry, friendly flair."

The new "government of national understanding" contains 10 communists, two of whom enjoy opposition support, seven non-party members and two members from each of the small Socialist and People's Parties, which recently broke with the communists.

In a key compromise, the Interior Ministry, which runs the nation's hated secret and uniformed police, will be run jointly by a former dissident, the new communist premier and a Communist Party member backed by the opposition.

The new government, which is supposed to devise the legal basis for democracy and pave the way for free elections, was sworn in by Husak, who was responsible for the 21 years of repression after a Soviet-led invasion crushed the "Prague Spring" reforms of 1968. The 76-year-old Husak, who presided over the jailing and firing of hundreds of thousands of people as Communist Party chief, then resigned.

Parliament reconvenes tomorrow and must choose a president this month.

Czechoslovakia wants economic aid from the West on a credit basis only, new Finance Minister Vaclav Klaus said.

"I don't like the word aid," he said in an interview published today. "What we want are normal financial transactions on a credit basis."

Klaus told the state news agency CTK that he wanted to open Czechoslovakia to the international flow of information, goods, labour and capital, with a minimum of economic turmoil.

"I consider the aid which has been received by our neighbouring countries as neither inevitable nor necessary for our country," he said.

Jiri Dienstbier was sworn in as Czechoslovak foreign minister today, and one of his first acts was to give notice of quitting his job as a stoker and apologise for missing his 24-hour shift in the boiler room that day.

He was able to do so because shortly before he was named to the top foreign affairs post, the authorities reconnected his home telephone, cut off for months on orders of the secret police.

"My last 24-hour shift was last Wednesday," said Dienstbier, since last month the multilingual spokesman for the pro-democracy Civic Forum.

Community to intensify efforts to integrate and become "a magnet that draws the forces of reform forward in Eastern Europe."

From Mitterrand, the most flamboyantly outspoken advocate of European unity, to Thatcher, the often-prickly dissenter, the leaders displayed a new political will to act together to encourage change and guard against anarchy.

West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl, who sided with Mitterrand to override Thatcher's objections to the Monetary Union Conference, went home pleased with having secured backing from the summit for eventual German reunification.

Silent vigil held for reform

SOFIA, Dec 11, (AP): More than 5,000 people held a silent vigil outside Communist Party headquarters today as the party's policy-setting central committee prepared to meet to discuss demands for change.

The one-hour vigil during morning working hours was a further sign of growing popular pressure on the leadership of new party chief Petar Mladenov to institute reforms. Party leaders in east bloc neighbours Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Poland and East Germany already have lost control or bowed to popular demands for change.

The new communist leader Petar Mladenov today proposed early parliamentary elections in response to popular demands for greater democracy.

The official BTA news agency reported that Mladenov, who has said he favours free elections, had suggested to the National Assembly that parliamentary elections be held by the end of next May.

Mladenov, who led the Communist Party of Bulgaria for 11 years, also wants to amend the constitution before the end of 1990, BTA reported.

Communist authorities, facing growing popular pressure for reform, lifted a ban on the popular environmentalist group Eco-glasnost today.

The decision, handed down by a municipal court in Sofia, was the latest concession to opposition groups in a tide of changes that has swept Bulgaria since Mladenov ousted veteran hardliner Todor Zhivkov last month.

"We already have about 5,000 members and now that people understand that we are legally recognised, we expect many more," Eco-glasnost president Petar Stabakov told journalists at the court.

The court overturned a ruling it had made earlier this year denying Eco-glasnost the legal status it needed to receive funds or finance its own projects.

On Sunday, more than 50,000 people rallied in downtown Sofia in support of reform. They called on the party to give up its constitutionally guaranteed monopoly on power and open a dialogue with independent groups.

Many people held candles in the bright sunshine, braving temperatures of minus 10 degree C (14F). A white, red and green Bulgarian flag waved on a platform set up behind the central committee building.

Parade marshals from the independent Union For Reform, or support, kept the crowd inside barriers set up by police to keep the gathering from disrupting morning traffic, and a few police stood at a distance around the crowd. After one hour, the crowd dispersed quietly.

Organisers of today's vigil, which was to be repeated in the afternoon and again tomorrow, said it was intended to show the leadership that the people were watching their work.

The central committee session was expected to last at least two days.

It was originally expected that personnel changes would be made in the party leadership, but at a surprise meeting on Friday, the ruling body ousted four old-guard supporters of Zhivkov from the politburo and removed 22 people, including Zhivkov, from the central committee.

At yesterday's opposition-organised rally, the crowd approved by show of hands a resolution, drafted by the 19 opposition groups, calling for the removal of the constitutional provision guaranteeing the leading role of the party.

Mladenov has said the party's leading role is an open question, but his No 2 in the party, Andrei Lukanov, said last week the party could not claim a monopoly on power.

In his last act as President, yesterday Gustav Husak swore in a cabinet whose members include people he had jailed or stripped of all but the most menial jobs. The new cabinet gave the country its first government dominated by non-communists since 1948.

Also today, Czechoslovak army units began pulling down barbed wire fencing, "the iron curtain", along a 20-mile (32-kilometre) stretch of its border with Austria. After the first stretch of the fence was cut away and rolled up, officials from both countries met on the open border near the Austrian town of Wulowitz to shake hands.



Bye bye Lenin.

Authorities in the southern steel town of Nowa Huta have quietly removed a statue of Vladimir Lenin that youthful demonstrators have repeatedly defaced and tried to destroy.

The removal was ordered Friday after demonstrators the past two Wednesdays in which youths who threw paint and flammable liquids on the monument clashed with police, who used water cannon and tear gas to disperse them.

The state PAP news agency said the 30-foot (10-metre) statue was removed from its plinth and "in perfect condition transported to the locality of Wroblowice for necessary conservation works."

Its future will be decided by the municipal and district councils, PAP said, but it is unlikely that anyone in Nowa Huta will want it back.

Polish workers removing the statue. (Reuters wirephoto)

Local polls call

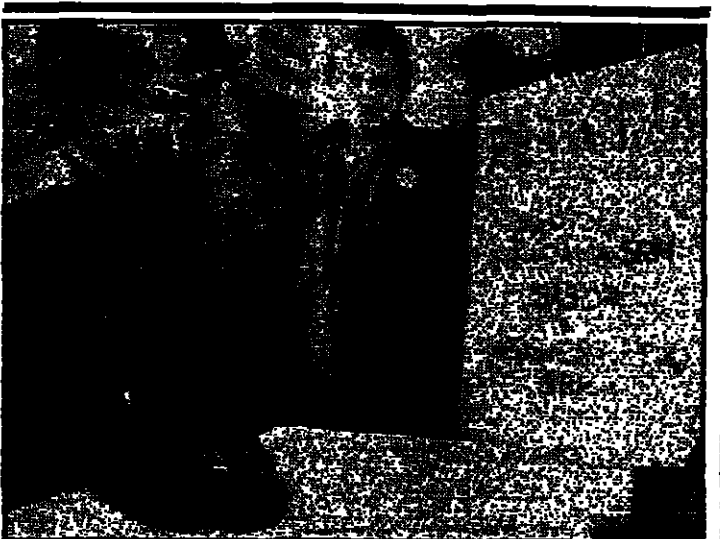
Polish House drafting law

WARSAW, Dec 11, (AP): Solidarity citizens committees are calling for local democratic elections during the first half of next year.

The elections were to be for new structures that will replace the people's councils, a last communist stronghold.

"I think that the future of Polish reforms, both political and economic, depends on what we are able to do at the local level, in the framework of our own initiatives," Bronislaw Gerczek, the leader of Solidarity's Parliament delegation, told the official PAP news agency.

The people's councils have not been subject to the reform sweeping the central government. Members are currently elected from candidates pre-approved by Communist Party officials, and the resulting boards are viewed as bloated and politicised bureaucracies where special privileges are more important than representation.



Call for free polls in Croatia

The Communist Party in Croatia, Yugoslavia's second biggest republic, called today for free multi-party elections in a move reflecting the impact of the political revolution in Eastern Europe.

"There can be no democratic socialism without political pluralism based on the right of political association and the competition of equal political subjects and programmes," said Croatia's party leader, Stanko Stojevic.

He was speaking in Zagreb at the start of a Croatian Party congress where the policy-making central committee adopted a proposal that elections should be held next month instead of March of the republic's parliament and should be wholly free.

Some 25,000 people have signed a petition in Zagreb and other cities in the Croatian Republic urging multi-party elections within a month, the official Tanjug News Agency reported.

The petition was circulated in 20 Croatian municipalities by 12 burgeoning political movements seeking official recognition of the kind granted similar movements in the Slovenian republic.

Popular Fronts gain in Baltics

MOSCOW, Dec 11, (Reuters): Candidates backed by the Popular Front appeared to be winning about 60 per cent of the vote in local elections in Latvia, a local journalist in the Soviet Baltic republics said today.

But the picture in neighbouring Estonia was unclear, they said.

The trend in Latvia appeared to confirm that mass Popular Fronts in the Baltics have seized the initiative from the Communist Party and become powerful forces in a drive for greater autonomy from Moscow.

Estonians and Latvians will have to wait several days to learn if local elections resulted in the expected defeat of numerous communists.

An election official in Estonia said results there might be available on Friday, while Latvians said it would be Wednesday or a later before they learned anything.

There were 33,500 candidates running for city council and other regional "Soviets" in the two small Baltic republics.

The outcome of Sunday's elections is seen as a gauge of separatist feeling in the Soviet Baltics, which were incorporated into the Soviet Union in 1940.

Latvian television said preliminary projections showed mainly on a spending, taken from the port city of Riga, gave some 60 per cent of the vote to candidates supported by the front.

In the capital, Riga, the Communist Party chief will face a runoff election in the coming weeks after failing to win the required 50 per cent of the votes cast.

"This is more or less in line with results expected by the Popular Front," said Valdis Berzins, a senior editor with the front's newspaper Atmoda.

The elections in the Baltics are the closest yet to multi-party contests in the Soviet Union, with candidates from Greens to monarchists running either as independents or with communist backing.

Among thousands of candidates for local posts, representing a string of social movements and budding political parties.

Berzins, speaking from Riga, said the local election was not a true test of the front's popularity in the republics.

"There has not been much interest in the local elections. In the past, they had no real meaning and people are not yet used to the idea of free elections," he said.

In Estonia, the official news agency ETA said it was too early for any projections. But local reports said turnout ran at about 20 to 70 per cent, with some districts in the capital tallinn falling below 50 per cent.

Baker in London to heal ties

LONDON, Dec 11, (AP): US Secretary of State James Baker arrived today seeking to mend fences with British leaders at the start of a week-long search for allied unity on a rapid political change sweeping Eastern Europe.

Also on the agenda is the difficult issue of German reunification. Baker is scheduled to meet with West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl, and visit the Berlin Wall.

Baker, who flew overnight from Washington, met with British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd, and was then holding talks with Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher before flying to Berlin.

His task was to assure Mrs Thatcher and Hurd that the US "special relationship" with Britain is firm and to solicit their views on the Western approach to the political upheavals in Eastern Europe.

There is support within the administration of President George Bush for an acceleration of the political union of western Europe that might include a reunited Germany.

Mrs Thatcher, the most outspoken opponent of rapid European integration, failed at the European Community summit last week to block plans by the 12-nation alliance to press ahead with radical proposals for monetary integration.

But she insisted during the summit in Strasbourg, France, that she has no problem with Baker's call at a NATO meeting last Monday for an "intensified effort" by the European Community to integrate.

She said that Bush told her he was referring to the single barrier-free market due to be set up at the end of 1992 by the 12 states. She is a prime advocate of the single market.

In Strasbourg, the European Community leaders also issued a declaration supporting eventual German reunification. The text was agreed after France, the Netherlands and Italy sought assurances from Kohl that a reunited Germany would respect all other borders.

EEC takes radical steps towards European unity

STRASBOURG, France, Dec 11, (AP): The 12-nation European Economic Community, under pressure to integrate in the face of upheaval to the East, has taken dramatic steps on the path toward uniting Europe.

It remains a rocky and uncertain road, with British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher maintaining a lone stance against plans for economic and monetary integration and community-wide welfare and workers' rights.

But the leaders of the bloc encompassing 320 million people emerged from a weekend summit here declaring themselves united in a new role as a

single West European bloc committed to reaching out toward the emerging democracies of Eastern Europe.

"Henceforth, there is no longer a Europe of two parts acting in the shadows or at the initiative of the two superpowers," summit host French President Francois Mitterrand said.

"Clearly, as of today we can say Yalta belongs more and more to history," he said, referring to the 1945 conference at the end of World War II that divided the continent between East and West.

The rhetoric echoed a call by US President George Bush last week to the European Economic

Community to intensify efforts to integrate and become "a magnet that draws the forces of reform forward in Eastern Europe."

From Mitterrand, the most flamboyantly outspoken advocate of European unity, to Thatcher, the often-prickly dissenter, the leaders displayed a new political will to act together to encourage change and guard against anarchy.

West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl, who sided with Mitterrand to override Thatcher's objections to the Monetary Union Conference, went home pleased with having secured backing from the summit for eventual German reunification.

PHILIPPINES

Cracks seen in army ranks

Manila coup attempt

MANILA (UPI): Wives of officers in the elite Presidential Guards frantically scrambled out of the gambling pits in the opulent Silahis Hotel along bay-front Roxas boulevard in Manila when the going got rough.

At about the same time that night of Nov 30, the Armed Forces chief, Gen. Renato de Villa, announced at general headquarters in Camp Aguinaldo that his troops had foiled yet another coup attempt by an army squad that had blown up a communications base in the popular resort of Tagaytay.

But at midnight, elite Scout Rangers and Marines had moved simultaneously to occupy three garrisons and the government television station in the capital. Mutineers also seized a military air base off Cebu, the nation's largest city and situated in the central Philippines.

The bloodiest coup attempt in Philippine history and the sixth against Aquino was under way.

World War II-type T-28 trainer aircraft strafed and bombed the presidential palace and ruled the skies until President Corazon Aquino asked President Bush for protective air cover.

"Persuasive flights" of F-4 Phantom fighter-bombers from Clark Air Base swung the tide of battle in favour of the loyalists without firing a shot.

The rebels regrouped and attempted to take Camp Aguinaldo in what rebel sources termed the first phase of their tactical plan to grab power from Aquino.

Repulsed after fierce artillery and mortar exchanges, the mutineers then launched the second stage of the uprising. They swarmed into the elegant hotels and skyscrapers in the Makati district, the heart of Manila's international business community and home to foreign embassies.

More than 2,000 guests, including 210 Americans, were trapped in four luxury hotels. The total number of foreigners living in the area were 8,000.

Loyal Philippine Marines, combat tested in battles against communist insurgents and Muslim separatists, were poised for an all-out assault when Bush telephoned Aquino and asked her not to attack.

"President Aquino responded and, as a result, the civilians are safe and the United States is grateful for that," US Ambassador Nicholas Platt said after the foreigners were evacuated on the fifth day of the siege in Makati.

The mutineers later agreed to surrender and return to their barracks.

"I feel nervous," said Ronald Kay, 39, a data processing consultant from Atlanta, as he eyed a rebel soldier posted at the lobby of the bullet-scarred House Intercontinental. "After the US (Phantom) fighters, you don't know how these people will react."

Sources close to the rebels said the mutineers were dismayed at the US overflights, but realized it was not to their advantage to go against the United States. That was why they ultimately surrendered in Makati.

"At no time during the whole period were specific Americans threatened, and that went even for the military people in the Manila Garden Hotel," a senior US embassy official said.

The embassy had a contingency plan if the rebels took hostages, the official said. About 1,000 US Marines were stationed in the Philippines, with 100 of them deployed at the seafloor embassy after the uprising erupted.

The Philippines host Clark Air Base and Subic Bay Naval Station, a repair yard and logistics centre for the US 7th Fleet. Manned by about 17,000 personnel, the bases anchor US military might in the western Pacific and the Indian Ocean.

The lease on the bases expires in 1991.

Negotiations about their future were expected to begin this month, before the uprising erupted.

Some members of the Philippine Senate, where sentiment against US bases is strong, spoke favourably of the rebels in the wake of the coup attempt. They said the uprising underscored weaknesses in Philippine defence forces and the importance of US military support.

Only one of the uprising demonstrators, that even rebel factions of the military could hold some sway with the United States.

"The tide is changing from the predominance of Cory influence in the United States to our side," said dissident Brig. Gen. Edgardo Abenina.

"Our holding under custody some American tourists at least somehow influenced the American decision on this aspect."

Abenina was one of the key figures in the bloody August 1987 coup attempt led by ex-army Col Gregorio Honasan and has been under house arrest pending a trial on mutiny charges.

Honasan also is believed to have led the latest uprising, officials said. But his whereabouts have been unknown since his escape from a prison ship in April.

Honasan led the Reform the Armed Forces Movement, or RAM. The movement provided the backbone of the popularly backed uprising that brought Aquino to power and drove Ferdinand Marcos into exile after 20 years of rule.

Most of the rebels' complaints focused on De Villa and Defence Secretary Fidel Ramos. RAM describes De Villa as a Ramos "clone."

Despite criticism, Ramos, 61, has built an image as a "doer." The latest opinion polls show the former armed forces chief and West Point-trained general is more popular than Aquino.



Tired of the whole business
A tired pro-government soldier shows strain as he tries to relax after fighting against rebel troops in Manila's Makati financial district. (Reuter wire-photo)

Problems abound

Crisis far from over

MANILA, (AP): President Corazon Aquino has shown steady resolve in confronting the armed challenge to her rule. But it is unclear whether she is ready to move quickly on the manifold problems that helped trigger the latest coup attempt.

Last Saturday, military mutineers gave up the last stronghold they seized Dec 1, when thousands of military mutineers rose up against her.

Still, the crisis facing the Aquino government is far from over. More than half the estimated 3,000 rebels who battled government troops in the Manila area remain at large, including key leaders such as Brig. Gen. Edgardo Abenina and renegade Lt Col Gregorio "Gringo" Honasan.

Grave social and political problems that the mutineers tried to exploit remain unaddressed.

Throughout the coup attempt, Aquino adamantly refused to compromise, even as rebel planes rocketed the Malacanang presidential palace.

"I promise you that I will continue to serve the Filipino people, and I will offer every moment of my life, and I shall never let evil triumph in our country," Aquino said Sunday during funeral services for a loyal officer killed in the coup attempt.

"Those who are guilty will be meted out the full penalties."

After each of the previous coup attempts, Aquino made the same bold, belligerent statements.

Few participants were ever punished. Those who were sentenced to prison by military courts remain under house arrest pending review of their sentences.

Last week, Aquino declared a national state of emergency. Congressional sources say the House of Representatives and the Senate are prepared to grant her broad, temporary powers to suspend strikes, conduct searches and seizures without warrants and take other measures to restore order and prevent another coup.

The emergency declaration has been widely applauded as a welcome sign of firmness, although some prominent human rights advocates expressed concern.

Others believe Aquino must also come to grips with the fact that her popularity has been declining in the face of rising prices, a breakdown in law and order, infrastructure decay and alleged corruption.

Tourism secretary admits it is hard to protect foreign visitors in Philippines

MANILA, Philippines, Dec 11. (AP): The tourism secretary admitted today it is hard to guarantee the safety of foreigners in the turbulent Philippines and that the situation was worsened by the recent coup attempt.

On Saturday, military mutineers opposed to President Corazon Aquino gave up their last stronghold, seized Dec 1. But thousands of mutineers remain at large, and leaders of the coup attempt have vowed to continue their struggle against the government.

"In any situation, whether it is Harlem in New York or a very safe place like Scandinavia, there may be even a few risks that some people take," Tourism Secretary Peter Gerrucho said in a radio interview.

"What we try to do as a department is, in what we call 'high tourist traffic area,' we have tourist police that operate there. But these operations are really relatively minor in comparison with the problems that are associated with something like a coup," he said.

More than 1,800 foreign tourists, businessmen and residents were trapped for nearly four days last week when rebels seized 22 buildings in the financial district of Makati.

Rebels allowed the tourism department to evacuate the foreigners last Wednesday, and gave up their positions in Makati the following day.

In addition, hundreds of foreigners were stranded in Cebu City, 560 kilometres (350 miles) south of Manila, when Philippine airlines diverted international flights from the capital when the coup was launched.

"We cannot totally assure (safety)," Gerrucho said.

Another coup threat is alive

(Continued from Page 1)

ted they cannot account for more than half of the estimated 3,000 soldiers who launched the coup attempt.

Aquino was asked whether she was considering changing cabinet members after the coup attempt.

"I am constantly observing their performance and capabilities and I believe that by the end of the year we will already know who we will probably change in order that we have a more efficient delivery of services to our people," she said.

Earlier, Senate committees on defence and constitutional amendments recommended granting the emergency powers to Aquino, saying the threat of a new revolt was still alive.

They linked "certain economic and political groupings" to the latest coup attempt but did not identify them.

"More than 2,000 persons who participated in the failed coup, including the masterminds and plotters, are still at large. There is still a clear and present danger from the fence-sitters among the military," the two committees said in an official report.

The proposed emergency law would empower Aquino to seize firearms from soldiers, police and civilians, take over public utilities and related businesses, fix prices and regulate power distribution.

It would also authorise her to intervene in labour strikes and order compulsory settlements.

Aquino's request for authority to search homes and offices for weapons provoked sharp controversy. Several senators expressed concern about whether it was constitutional and might lead to excesses.

"We want to be sure it can be legally defended," Senator Nepomoceno told reporters. He said a caucus of the ruling coalition had proposed safeguards to prevent the provision from being abused.

Members of the House of Representatives voiced similar concern but, like the Senate, appeared set to approve the disputed provision with amendments.

Senators said a controversial provision granting Aquino blanket authority to promulgate laws to put down army mutinies and to rebuild the economy has been dropped.

Brigadier-General Rodolfo Biazon, military commander for Manila, told reporters some rebel officers and enlisted men were paid by unidentified groups to join the latest coup attempt.

"Captured rebels had crisp bills in their pockets," Biazon said. He did not name the financiers but said they paid one general as much as 25 million pesos (\$1.13 million) to join the putsch.

A rebel officer who led the assault on military headquarters in Manila was given \$100,000, Biazon said. He did not say where he got the information.

Aquino said 119 people, including 48 loyalist soldiers, an estimated 25 army rebels and 46 civilians, were killed in the week-long coup attempt. Red Cross officials said nearly 600 people were wounded.

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Accidents

ONE man died and eight others were injured in traffic accidents yesterday. Of the 21 traffic accidents 11 occurred in Kuwait City, one in Hawalli, three in Jahra and six in Ahmedi.

Airport visit

MEMBERS of a Gulf delegation yesterday visited the Kuwait International Airport. The delegates, who are officials at airports in GCC states, were also briefed on security measures taken by Kuwait. They also visited the General Security Forces and the Buildings Security Department.

Charity Dish

THIS year's Charity Dish Festival will be held on Dec 13 at the Doha Entertainment City. It will be patronised by the Minister of Foreign Affairs. Special arrangements are being made to put the final touches to make the festival a success.

Foreign media centre

KUWAIT'S Ministry of Information will set up an information centre for foreign journalists. The centre, which will be opened within three months, is to be equipped with all the equipment and facilities required by media correspondents, said assistant undersecretary for external information, Kida Al Feeli. Foreign correspondents from Egypt, Canada, Asia, Africa and the USA are expected to visit Kuwait. The centre also organises trips for foreign journalists to places of interest in Kuwait.

The ministry also plans to expand information services at the Kuwaiti embassies abroad.

Iraqi visit

MANAMA, Dec 11. (Kuna): Vice-president of the Iraqi Revolutionary Command Council Ezzat Ibrahim arrived here today.

He was received at the airport by Bahraini Premier Sheikh Khalifa Bin Salman Al Khalifa. Iraqi Ambassador to Bahrain Taha Mahmoud Al Aish, and a number of Bahraini senior officials, Gulf News Agency reported.

During his visit, Ibrahim will discuss with Bahraini officials bilateral relations and issues of mutual interest, GNA said.

Sports meeting

KUWAIT, Dec 11. (Kuna): Minister of Information Sheikh Jaber Mubarak Al Hamad today received in his office the Chairman of Qadsiyeh Sports Club Abdul Mohsen Al Farsi, Vice Chairman Brigadier Mahmoud Razzouqi, the club's secretary Abdulla Al Dakheel and treasurer Badr Al Jawa'an.

Sheikh Mubarak also received Murqus Na'Amouj, proprietor of the Middle East Information Research Corporation in the US and journalist Georgina Rosa from the Spanish El Pais newspaper.

Traffic office

THE General Traffic Department (GTD) and the Computer Information Centre officials at the Ministry of Interior are deliberating the feasibility of setting up a special office at the second-hand cars market (Haraj) to undertake car insurance procedures during the afternoons.

Further, the GTD is also looking into the feasibility of changing the car registration book into a card-design similar in size to the driving licence. The new card will expire with the insurance date of the car.

Plans are also under way to set up a branch office at the ministries' complex to serve the needs of government employees. Computer aided driving test dates in all traffic departments in the five governorates are now being implemented.

Commercial case

KUWAIT'S Commercial Court has asked a local company to refund the sum of KD 9,650 taken from a client as insurance for a loan of KD 55,000. The loan was given for a three month period.

The Court's ruling was based on the fact that the company was registered as a legal consultancy, and is traded in securities, it had violated some clauses of the agreement made with the plaintiff.

The Court was also told that the defendant had extended the validity of the agreement to one year without the plaintiff's consent. This resulted in the accumulation of the insurance, first fixed at KD 2,750.

The contract between the plaintiff and defendant was declared null and void.

Sri Lankan arrested

DETECTIVES in Ahmedi have arrested a Sri Lankan for making and selling liquor at his home in Mahbeula. Liquor brewing equipment was found in his home. The person has been referred to the relevant authorities for further investigation.

French team uncovers old church remains on Failaka Island

Kuwaitis to excavate Al Namal Island

KUWAIT, Dec 11. (Kuna): The Assistant Director of the Information Ministry's Archaeology and Museums Department Dr Fahd Al Weheibi today announced that the French excavation team had uncovered remains of an old church in Failaka Island's Qusur area.

Dr Weheibi told Kuna that the church dates back to the sixth century. French archaeologists differ over its exact date but believe it was built one hundred years before the advent of Islam.

He said the French mission had dug out part of the church in the past years but without knowing that it was a church.

This year's excavation, which started on Nov 10, the remaining parts were discovered indicating that it was a church with all its constructional landmarks, Weheibi added.

Examination of the relics revealed that the church was still in use during the Muslim Abbasid dynasty's rule (750-1258), he said. Pottery dating

back to that era was found.

The French expedition, working in Failaka since 1983, was concentrating on two areas — Qusur and Tel Saeed.

The French team believes that the church was deserted and reused during different periods of history. He did not rule out the possibility that the place may have been used as a mosque. However, excavations did not produce sufficient evidence to prove the theory.

Several relics were discovered on the same site, including games popular among Kuwaitis and Arabs, he said.

Dr Weheibi said efforts are under way to upgrade Kuwaiti excavation skills through joining and co-operating with foreign expeditions.

A number of Kuwaiti youths had taken part in the excavations in addition to checking, registering and maintaining the relics which, he added, will be delivered to the National Museum this week.

Dr Weheibi called on the concerned authorities to launch a scientific, and comprehensive,

survey of the various Kuwaiti areas to determine possible sites of hidden antiquities, noting that a Danish expedition had surveyed the Failaka Island in 1957 but nothing similar since then had been made.

He announced that Kuwaiti youth will soon excavate Umm Al Namal Island, pointing out that evidences indicate the presence of relics dating back to the Bronze Age which would shed light on Kuwait's history in that era.



Dr Weheibi



Charity bazar

A charity bazar, organised by students of the Health-Science College, was recently opened by the Director General of the Public Authority for Applied Education and Training (PAAET). The college is affiliated to PAAET.

The opening ceremony was attended by the Dean of Student Affairs Hisham Al Mutawa; the college dean Fawziya Mulla Hussain and director of public relations Khaled Al Oryan. The proceeds from the bazar will be donated to the African Muslims fund. Picture shows Dr. Al Muhallan touring the bazar.

Co-ops seek control of direct imports

'Buy local products'

THE Chairman of Co-operative Societies Union Saad Al Sawarj has called on the government to give them the authority to import commodities directly from foreign markets.

He called for the amendment of Law No. 24, 1979, to cope with developments in the local co-operative movement.

He also urged consumers to buy Kuwaiti products. "Consumers must buy national products, even if they are costlier, to encourage national industries," he said.

Presently, the co-operatives are authorised to import all commodities subsidised by the state. Sawarj said more commodities and services should be added to the list.

Sawarj said the state should depend on the Union to implement policies related to food security. He said the government could still determine the commodities that meet the food strategy but asked for more control over direct imports.

The official also called for additional subsidies and facilities for the agricultural and animal husbandry sectors.

He said the co-operative

societies union could play a significant role in supporting national industry. Over 75 per cent of foodstuff and consumer items are marketed through the co-operative societies spread throughout Kuwait.

He said they could play a vital role in retail and wholesale trading, provided they are given adequate storage facilities.

At present, Kuwaitis form only five per cent of total staff. Sawarj said they should encourage more nationals to join the workforce by organising training courses.

He said computers should be installed at the co-operatives to ease work, urging authorities to speed up modernisation.

He said the Union should use the services of Kuwaiti contractors to build new co-operatives. This, he said, would help the country's economy.

Sawarj said studies should be conducted to determine the economic status of each co-operative society. On the basis of findings, recommendations could be made to amalgamate some co-operatives, increase their numbers and suggest other avenues to enhance efficiency.

Satellites to expand transmission

KUWAIT, Dec 11. (Kuna): The second generation of satellites belonging to the International Maritime Satellite Organisation (Inmarsat) will be launched this space next October. It was disclosed here today.

Speaking to Kuna, Director of Earth and Marine stations at the Ministry of Communications Abdelwahab Al Hizam said that the decision to launch the new satellites was made during the annual meetings of Inmarsat held in London last month.

He added that four satellites will be launched to replace three which have been providing telecommunication services to subscribers, including Kuwait, in the past years.

The fourth satellite, he said, will assist the Gulf region expand transmission activities.

Hizam disclosed that a new agreement was signed at the meeting providing a budget for production of the third generation of satellites for the organisation.

Satellites, the most advanced means of communication because of their capability to transmit and receive signals and relay them anywhere in the world with an unmatched precision, have a survival age of 7-13 years depending on several technical factors.

Girl's hospital death mystery

Official denies malpractice

A TOP health ministry official has strongly denied links between the medical tests and the subsequent death of a female school student.

An Arabic newspaper had reported alleged connection between the TB test and her death. The girl was a student of the Ardhiyah Intermediate School.

According to the autopsy report, the girl died due to severe inflammation of the brain, said Dr Sulaiman Falah Al Ali, director of the Farwaniya Health Area. He denied the press reports and emphasised that there was no connection between the girl's death and the medical test. He said the girl was one of 188 students who took the TB test at the school. The girl had to be re-tested after she checked into the hospital with such symptoms as nausea, headache and a high fever.

After she was admitted to hospital on Wednesday last week, he said, all precautions were taken and she was placed in intensive care at the hospital. The girl recovered consciousness and was kept under observation. The next morning, she had convulsions and despite all efforts to save her, she died.

The girl's father, Abdul Rahman Al Mari, said he had taken his two daughters to school on the day she was taken to hospital. The girl was sick in the morning and had vomited the milk she drank. Later in the day, Al Mari's wife told him that his daughter had been admitted at the Farwaniya Hospital in Ward 17.

The girl, who was by then delirious, could not recognise her parents, he told a local daily. "She thought I was one of the relatives and believed her mother was the maid," he said. "She was mumbling incoherently," he added.

Al Mari alleges the doctor, after X-rays, told him the girl had a "minor inflammation" and would be better after injecting a pain-killer.

The father said that although his daughter regained consciousness her condition soon deteriorated, and hours later she died.

Al Mari called at the school to make enquiries and was told by a nurse that his daughter had been given an "anti-allergy" injection, she had a fit and fell down. The girl was also given an anti-meningitis serum, despite pleas. When her condition deteriorated rapidly, she was rushed to the hospital.

The school principal told the father she was not in the premises when the incident occurred.

Al Mari said he was awaiting the final autopsy results. He claims his daughter had never been seriously ill and had no pain before the incident.

In Jahra, the death of a patient due to alleged negligence and malpractice is under investigation, according to Rashed Al Rahoud, director of the Jahra Health Area.

He confirmed a patient died in the hospital due to alleged negligence. Defending the doctor, he said "No one is infallible."

He said the doctor's case is being reviewed by the public prosecutor.

In keeping with the instructions of HH the Amir, the facilities at the Al Jahra Hospital will be expanded, Al Rahoud said.

Among the expansion plans, two new wards will be built for maternity patients and another two for pediatrics, the official said. The Ministry of Health has formed a committee to set up maintain an individual health file system, for each citizen and resident, he said.

Efforts

Rahoud said significant efforts are being exerted to enhance health awareness among the people of Al Jahra Health Area. Such efforts are reflected in higher vaccination percentages recorded at Al Jahra Health Area as compared to others, he said.

He added that the area, in co-operation with the Educational Area, is exerting intensified efforts to enlighten the importance of maintaining a high-level of health standards and has established a clinic at Al Abdali Area which operates round the clock in addition to a small clinic which has been established at Al Salim Area.

Speaking of the co-operation between the Al Jahra Health Area and other areas, the official said that a co-ordinative council on the level of Health Area Directors had been established and several meetings had been held with the minister of health to boost co-operation among the country's health areas.

Anti-Aids law awaits approval

Draft prepared

AN anti-Aids law is expected to be passed shortly to cover the treatment of patients and carriers of the disease, a top health official has said.

Dr Abdul Aziz Al Anzi, director of the Infectious Diseases Hospital, disclosed that the law has been prepared and is now awaiting approval. He expects the law to be ratified "very soon."

The law covering the treatment of Aids patients and carriers had been under study for months and has now been completed, said Al Anzi.

The law was prepared by the anti-Aids committee. Al Anzi said the proposed law will establish the relationship between an Aids patient and society as well

as protect others from the disease. It also takes into consideration the social and family background.

Islamic view

The Islamic point of view regarding the issue is being studied by another committee comprising representatives from the Ministries of Health, Foreign Affairs and Interior. It is headed by Dr Khaled Al Madhkur.

Health authorities have discovered 35 Aids carriers in Kuwait. Of these eight were Kuwaitis, including a five-year-old girl who recently died of the disease. Except a 14-year-old girl, the other Kuwaiti Aids carriers are male between the ages of 25 and 49. They were infected during visits abroad, he

said. The girl contracted the disease after a blood transfusion abroad. The male-carriers have admitted having illicit relationships during their foreign trips.

The non-Kuwaiti carriers of the disease had been deported. Of the total, only one patient suffers from Aids. The Aids carriers had been discharged from hospital.

The hospitals maintain records of all patients who are at risk and doctors monitor their progress. Patients, he said, normally abide by the instructions given by doctors. From time to time, lab tests were also done, he said.

Iranian message

DOHA, Dec 11. (Kuna): The Amir of Qatar Sheikh Khalifa Bin Hamad Al Thani on Saturday received a message from Iranian President Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani. The message dealt with latest developments in the Gulf region and means to promote bilateral relations.

The Qatari News Agency reported that the Iranian Foreign Undersecretary Ali Mohammad Besharti who came from Bahrain, delivered the message during an audience today with the Amir of Qatar.

During his brief stay here, Besharti discussed with the Qatari Crown Prince and Defence Minister Sheikh Hamad Bin Khalifa Al Thani a number of issues of mutual concern and bilateral relations.

Besharti also met earlier today with Qatari Foreign Minister Abdullah Bin Khalifa Al Atia.

Prince Talal appeals: look after children

'Health for all'

The head of the Arab Council for Child Development (ACCD) has urged world nations to work together to "Achieve health for all" by the year 2,000.

Prince Talal Bin Abdulaziz, president of Agfund and the ACCD, in the statement to the press, has appealed to the decision-makers to implement the Convention on the Right of the Child. The convention sets up a "safety belt" for the present and future generations and safeguards proper growth for human resources for decades to come, he said.

He said with simple low cost techniques saved the life of two million children through immunisation against six killer diseases. He said three million children still need protection. Such diseases as measles and tetanus claim the lives of 1.5 million children each year.

Primary health care programmes around the world protect millions of mothers and children.

Millions of children are protected against loss of vision, malnutrition and disability by the use of vitamin A and combating iodine deficiency. Basic services for mothers and children are also provided.

Prince Talal criticised the developing world for spending billions of dollars on defence equipment. In 1988 the developing world spent about \$ 145 billion on defence. In the same year cumulative debt amounted to \$ 178 billion. "The vulnerable groups pay these debts through cuts on government allocations for health, education, basic services and food," he said.

He expressed the hope that the Nineties will improve the situation. "The Nineties will be full of other achievements, through the summit for children, and the impact of the convention on the Right of the Child." He also hoped that the World Conference on Education for All would have a positive impact.



Simplifying procedures

A meeting to discuss on-the-spot completion of formalities was held at the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour. Official talks are under way to ease formalities for expatriates seeking the services of the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour. Yesterday's meeting dealt with ways and means to implement measures to provide prompt services. The meeting was chaired by Undersecretary Issa Yassen. It was attended by senior officials including Assistant Mohammad Shabnan Al Thamer and Director of Hawalli Labour Department Abdul Aziz Al Kulaib. Picture shows Issa Yassen chairing the meeting.

1550



Credentials presented

Kuwait's Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Saud Mohammad Al Oseimi yesterday received copies of the credentials of the ambassadors of Bhutan (above) and Niger (below). The ceremony was attended by Foreign Undersecretary Sulaiman Majed Al Shaheen, Director of the Protocol Department Ahmed Al Ayoub and director of the office of Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Abdullah Al Abdul Razzaq.



Centre helps students to overcome learning disability

THE Director of the Child Rehabilitation and Education Centre, Faten Al Bader stressed that the centre is fully concerned with developing awareness about special education. The centre also provides parents with advice and other services to diagnose learning disabilities.

Interviewed by a local daily, she explained that placing all groups of children in one classroom and subjecting them to similar mental and emotional training leads to overstress for some students suffering from learning disabilities.

Bader added that a comprehensive group of methods en-

abled specialists at the centre to discover the talents of most children. This will assist them in finding adequate solutions to individual problems.

She pointed out that children with learning disabilities mainly face lack of speed and accuracy in receiving information, unlike normal children of identical mental levels.

She indicated that experts estimate that 10 per cent of children belonging to the school age face learning disabilities at one time or another.

She said that several training and rehabilitation courses were held for teachers at the centre. The centre utilizes international

data base such as the ERIC database and others in the field of psychology. Computers were utilized to provide education officials in the field of special education data and information necessary to conduct researches and to draw results.

She indicated that two out of four children in classrooms suffer moderate or acute educational disabilities. Children at older stages are able to develop further complicated methods, Bader said.

Taxi service adequate

Fees reasonable: claim

THE call taxi drivers have complained about passengers who make them speed by not giving sufficient notice before ordering a taxi, according to a survey done by a local daily.

It said most managers of call-taxi offices told the daily passengers did not give them enough time, putting the life of drivers at risk by forcing them to over-speed. One person admitted that some drivers were careless and risked the life of passengers. If a customer was not happy with the driver, he should immediately file a complaint with the office, said one of the managers.

It said one of the main problems drivers faced was when passengers gave incorrect addresses. Such a practice is "immature" and wastes the time

of drivers. Customers also refused to pay on arrival at their destination.

Many of the call-taxi service officers were not happy with the current rules implemented by the general traffic department. One of the rules requires drivers to hold minimum educational qualifications.

They said such services were used by large families with one car when they went on outings. They also said the taxi service was safe and could be used by women.

One driver claims that taxi fares are reasonable and customers are not overcharged by such companies. The taxi fares are fixed by the Ministry of Interior and, many of those interviewed said they followed the rules.

Bahrain traders cope with the slump

By Yakub Razzaque
Arab Times staff

OVER the last few years Bahrain's retail trade has been undergoing a slump period for a number of regional as well as external factors. As a consequence the island has become a buyer's market with most merchandise ranging from electronic goods to household appliances being offered at bargain prices to the public.

In recent times Bahrain like the rest of the Gulf States has experienced a recession which has hit the retail trade and to a certain extent the expatriate population, affected the retail market. Traders in most cases have been forced to lower retail prices of goods in the wake

of over decreasing business. Often shopkeepers of general stores selling miscellaneous items are compelled to sell goods at prices which would have been considered ludicrous few years back. Today it has become a common trend to see an item available between 30 to 50 per cent less than retail price. More often than not traders make little or no profit on certain goods. In desperation to procure business some shopkeepers are prepared to sell their goods at 'throw away prices' in order to clear existing stocks which remain unsold for months on end.

Bahrain is close on the heels of Dubai, which remains the most attractive market for retail trade-offering less for the same goods available in other Gulf states. The island is quickly acquiring a reputation for

a wide range of quality and durable goods at economic prices. This is evident with the frequent influx of other Gulf customers in the island via the Causeway.

While the current situation offers no glimmer of hope for the traders, it is excellent news for the customers. This is particularly so because while the prices of most goods have dropped remarkably there has been no change in the cost of living and general wages. On the contrary wages of some workers have been reduced over the years. However, even the lowest paid worker here is now able to afford things like video and hi-fi which are no longer considered 'luxury' items. Prices of electronic goods for instance have dropped between 3 to 4 times in recent times. With the situation of retail trade as it is

the annual sale is on the verge of becoming obsolete. For indeed there is no longer the need to hold this traditional commercial event, which at one time was quite popular among the cost-conscious public. Official sources have recently hinted that this may be Bahrain's last year for sale as most goods today are available at 'sale prices'. But despite of 'bargain prices' and 'special offers' of most goods, the public at times this year have appeared reluctant to go on a shopping spree. It is now the age of selective and cost-conscious marketing by the average consumer. Shopping generally is done from need rather than choice for the majority of the islanders. However, dwindling retail prices have opened up doors of option for even the most frugal shopper in Bahrain.

Improper studies blamed for past failure

Expert predicts better investment climate in 1990s

THE director-general of Kuwait based Inter-Arab Investment Guarantee Corporation (IAIGC) Mamoun Ibrahim Hasan was quoted as saying that there are several signs indicating that private investments will witness a significant boost world-wide during the 1990s.

In an interview with a local daily, the official expressed hopes that the Arab area shall keep abreast with the said international prospects. However, he clarified that the expected boost would not be identical to the level that prevailed in 1970s particularly in the Arab region.

It is likely that the Arab investments during the next decade will mostly decline and will be concentrated on small and medium projects for easy control.

He said that the Arab oil exporting countries which are widely known as exporters for capital will be attracted to the inflow of capital, particularly from their citizens. He added, irrespective of the positive signals, economic prosperity in the Arab countries shall depend mainly on the provision of the necessary investment atmosphere, and eventually improving

of the investment environment by surmounting the relevant obstacles facing Arab investors.

He claims a great number of Arab investment projects had failed due to the absence of the necessary feasibility study. Replying to a question over the volume of the direct private investment inflow, Ibrahim said that the volume of such investments amounted to about US\$9.9 billion from 1950s to 1988. This was distributed amongst 2,170 projects. He added that such an inflow had reached the peak in 1970s with about US\$6.24 billion, about 63.2 per cent of the total amount.

He added that the investment inflows had drastically dropped in 1980s and had amounted to about US\$2.81 billion or 28.4 per cent.

In the 1950s the investment inflow amounted to US\$427 million, viz 4.2 per cent. This figure had dropped in 1960s to US\$4.53 million, 4.1 per cent of total private investments inflows.

He said that 29.2 per cent of these investments had been directed to the industrial sector, 24.3 per cent to the banking and

financial sectors, 17.2 per cent to the transport and communications sectors, 9.2 per cent for hotels and tourism sector, 5.5 per cent for construction and contracting sector, 4.3 per cent for livestock and agriculture sector, 3.6 per cent for service sector, commerce and storage sector 3.1 per cent and derivative industries 3 per cent.

Commenting on Arab accommodation to the prospect of investment inflows, the official said that the invitation for investment in the Arab countries always coincided with an appeal for exerting necessary efforts to provide appropriate conditions for investment opportunities on a local and Arab level to secure success.

Speaking of the Arab trade financing programme contributed by Inter-Arab Investment Guarantee Corporation and some other Arab finance institutions, the official said that the management of this programme had been entrusted to the Abu Dhabi based Arab Monetary Fund (AMF) and it is expected that the subscription process in this programme will be completed soon.

He disclosed that the capital had been initially fixed at US\$500 million with a provision to increase it according to needs of the Arab financial market.

He expected that the finance problems currently facing the Arab economy will wane gradually after the application of the pertinent programme.

The effectiveness of this programme will coincide with Arab banks trend to finance the Arab businesses, he said. These banks will also benefit from the guarantee system to be provided by the IAIGC, he added.

The official believes the Arab trading financing programme was timely and its financial resources were sufficient to achieve targeted goals.

Replying to a question over the retreat of the inter-Arab investment in 1980s decade, compared to 1970s decade, the official said that Arab countries had witnessed an economic boom in the 1970s in the financial, investment and economic markets. He attributed this to the increase in oil revenues.

But the 1980s had witnessed a considerable retreat, mainly due to the eruption of wars, the

regional conflict that engulfed the Arab area, national disasters which are represented by desertification, drought and water floods.

Apart from the above, the current decade had witnessed a drastic fall in oil prices and raw materials in addition to increasing indebtedness. He said all these developments coincided with an international economic and monetary crisis.

Replying to a question about the role of IAIGC towards boosting of the inter-Arab investment inflow, the official said that the corporation was playing its role by encouraging Arab investors to keep their funds in the Arab region by providing the necessary guarantees against the non-commercial risks.

The corporation is also contributing in the preparation of the economic feasibility studies for several investment projects, preparing of the economic research on the Arab economic situations and contribution in the efforts exerted for improving of the investment atmosphere and eventually the promotion of investment projects, the official said.

Kuwait to build 'Science City'

KUWAIT has plans to build a "Science City." This was disclosed by Dawood Al Ahmad, a member of the Science Club's Board of Directors.

The proposed Science City will be located on the 6th Ring Road, somewhere between the present premises of the Science Club and Drive-in Cinema.

Al Ahmad said the proposed city would include separate departments for boys and girls, a fair ground and well-equipped

labs. Al Dawood said their science advancement plan is expected to serve Kuwait for the next 50 years.

Al Ahmad said the Science Club, established to provide a base for young Kuwaitis to encourage their hobbies, has become a place of knowledge.

The Science Club consists of three main sections covering general activities, helping young scientists and promoting scientific research. It also maintains

contacts with similar clubs in other Gulf, Arab and foreign countries.

Al Dawood said plans are underway to open branches in Ahmadi, Jahra, Shamiya and Shuwaikh suburbs.

The Governor of the capital Sheikh Jaber Al Abdullah yesterday visited the club and toured its facilities. He was welcomed by the Minister of Communications Abdullah Al Sharhan, who is also chairman of the club.

Waldegrave ends visit to Oman, Yemen

MUSCAT, Dec 11. (Kuna): British Minister of Foreign Affairs Office William Waldegrave left here today ending his three-day official visit to Oman.

During his visit, Waldegrave met with Sultan Qaboos Bin Sa'ed of Oman and a number of high ranking government officials.

Waldegrave also met with Omani Deputy Prime Minister for Financial and Economic Affairs Qais Al Zawawi. They discussed joint interests and aspects of co-operation between the two countries to strengthen bilateral relations.

At the British-Omani joint committee sessions, Waldegrave headed the British delegation while Omani Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Youssef Bin Alawi Bin Abdullah headed the Omani side.

During a press conference held here on Sunday, Waldegrave

criticized the Israeli policy in the occupied territories and said his government denounces the oppressive actions practised by the Israelis against the Palestinians who have the right to independence and sovereignty.

On his visit to Muscat the British official described it as successful, reflecting the deep historical relations between Oman and Britain.

Waldegrave had arrived in Muscat following a visit to Sanaa where he was on a three day official visit to the Arab Republic of Yemen.

The British minister also visited the Peoples' Democratic Republic of Yemen, the first British official to visit Aden since its independence in 1967.

He discussed bilateral relations with Yemeni officials and the current developments in the Middle East.

Kuwaitisation as planned in judiciary

KUWAITISATION of the judicial system is progressing according to plan, said Mohammad Youssef Al Refai, chairman of the Supreme Judicial Council, and chairman of the Supreme Court of Appeals.

Speaking to a local daily at the outset of the new judicial year, the official said that work was progressing satisfactorily and the decree-law on minor law cases was aimed at reducing procedural red-tape and speeding up examination and settlement of legal disputes.

Issues such as child custody, divorces, and some other humanitarian issues were accorded special attention and were ruled on an urgent basis by competent courts, Refai said.

He said that a new draft bill on lawyers legal practice is intended to sort out a large number of defects existing in the current method of professional practice.

He added that a series of measures had been taken by the Ministry of Justice to define the sessions of department of specialists and further provide the department with need expertise.

Refai stressed the ministry's concern to treat occupants of para-judicial positions justly and improve their conditions, due to their vital role in the Kuwaiti judicial system.

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reputation of the Kuwaiti judicial system — both at the local and international levels.

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Quality meeting

The managers of the Al Marai Establishment yesterday held a meeting to discuss quality control of dairy products. Representatives from Al Marai's offices in the Gulf alongside experts from UK and Ireland attended. Picture shows some of the participants.

Air traffic movement rises

MOVEMENT of aircrafts and passengers at Kuwait International Airport increased seven and five per cent respectively during last November, according to statistics issued recently by Kuwait's Directorate-General of Civil Aviation.

Airfreight movement also increased during the same month, increasing by 19 per cent.

The volume of passengers traffic was 19,950 with an increase of 8,925 passengers as compared to November, 1988, the report said. It added that the airfreight movement had amounted to 7,790 tonnes with an increase of

1,219 tonnes vis-a-vis to November 1988.

Meanwhile, the report commented that the increase percentage reflects the growth of the air transport market in Kuwait.

But the report noted some passive signs represented by the drop in the irregular air transport movement particularly for passengers, commenting that this is a natural phenomenon during the month of November whereas the regular flights were offering seats covering the market needs, as this month is not a season for vacations. Accordingly, extra flights in November were not arranged.

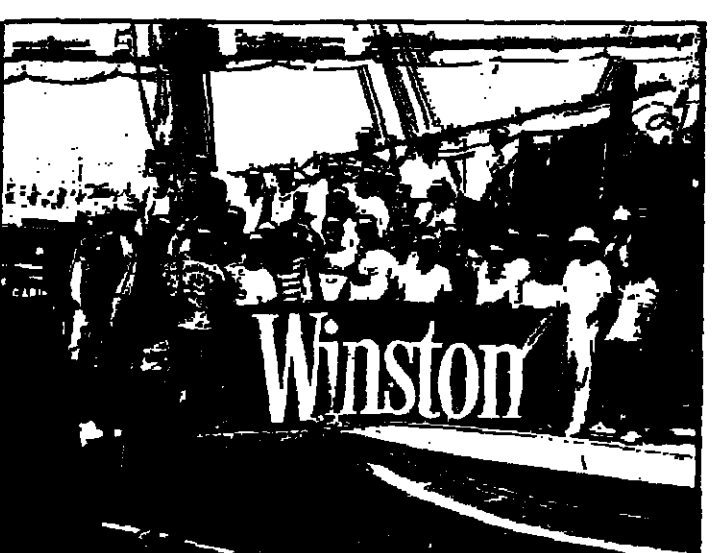
Crown Pacific buys Scotpac

HONG KONG based Crown Pacific Holdings have announced the acquisition of all the outstanding shares of Scott Packing and Warehousing Company Ltd, from the Peninsula and Oriental Steam Navigation Company Ltd (P&O) of London.

The acquisition creates one of the largest international moving companies in the world, with 1400 managers and staff. Group sales for 1990 are projected to be \$120,000,000.

It is one of the world's largest firms engaged in the international packing, storage and transport of household and personal effects.

Crown Pacific, Kuwait, Middle East network, now expanded to include Scotpac, Dubai, Bahrain and Abu Dhabi, expects the acquisition to cement their standing as the premier international removal company in the region.



SAS Hotel's competitors on board Al Ghazee, bearing the banner of Winston, who are sponsoring the fishing competition. The event was one of the main attractions at this year's annual staff sports at the SAS.

ARAB TIMES

Thought for today

IT IS impossible, in our condition of society, not to be sometimes a snob — W.M. Thackeray, English writer (1811-1863).

OPINION

Speedy decision, need of the hour

INDUSTRY has greatly retreated in our country and many industrial investments have gone overseas as a result of the long procedures taken to approve industrial projects, including the almost non-present government support.

Such measures sometimes lead to frustration among investors who then utilise better investment opportunities in other Gulf or Arab countries.

Red tape in the government concerning industrial projects, lack of co-ordination among ministries, lengthy delay in obtaining approvals or rejection are all contributory factors for flight of capital. In cases where plans are refused, the entire project dies in Kuwait, but is seen to take life in another country.

However, it is worth mentioning once more that the government economic report contains many positive aspects — though it has come late.

It must be realised that economic opportunities are lost due to the large number of meetings held, delays in taking appropriate decision in addition to official differences.

While we appreciate that security matters were one of the reasons for not paying enough attention to the economic issues in the past, what is really needed is speedy decision on economic issues.

We support security and stability, but these can be achieved only by strengthening the means of security and not by closing doors and windows.

That stage is over now and we look forward to the future. Let us use the same methodologies of other countries who are really interested in encouraging their industries, transit trade, opening free trade zones and other positive actions.

Although the government is rich and is getting richer, individuals here are still facing the consequences of the Stock Exchange Market crash.

Till now the Kuwaiti is still paying for that sin — Manakh — although he was not alone responsible for causing the crash. The government, through its many laws and as a result of its conflict with the former National Assembly, is one of the causes of the crisis.

The market badly needs trust now and without government money moving it, as it moved the real estate market it will remain static and even move backward.

Without having freedom in discussing the loopholes in the otherwise positive aspect of the latest government economic report, the government will only receive praise and will not facilitate bridging the shortcomings.

Once again, we reiterate, let us look at East Europe and see that they have brought down a 40-year-old theory because it failed.

Ahmed Al Jarallah

Turmoil in East Europe

Leaders face prosecution

WARSAW, (UP): In East Germany, Erich Honecker and other former Communist Party leaders await investigation under house arrest.

In Bulgaria, former party leader Todor Zhivkov was forced to give up use of 30 mansions around the country and a villa in Switzerland.

In Hungary, former President Pal Losonczy lives a spartan existence in his native village, with the trappings of his former luxurious lifestyle on display in the local museum.

Throughout Eastern Europe, top communists who tightly gripped the reins of autocracy for decades are finding themselves stripped of the perks and privileges of power and subjected to humiliation from the masses they once ruled.

Some have taken it stoically. Others have committed suicide.

Their lot is part of the fallout from the cataclysmic changes sweeping across the 140 million people of Eastern Europe. The winds of change from Moscow, which first blew into Poland and Hungary, have swept with a fury over the rest of the area in the past few weeks, with the Communist elite the main losers.

Only Romania, where President Nicolae Ceausescu is building a monstrous monument to himself in the centre of Bucharest, and tiny, isolationist Albania still seem immune to the demands for political and economic reform.

Perhaps not surprisingly, the most bitter mass reaction seems to come from what until just a few weeks ago were among the most hard-line, centrally controlled regimes. East Germany, Bulgaria and Czechoslovakia.

TODAY IN HISTORY

1574 — Murad III succeeds as sultan of Turkey on death of Selim II.

1642 — Dutch navigator Abel Tasman discovers New Zealand.

1677 — Brandenburg's Frederick William I takes Stettin, Poland; Denmark's King Christian V is defeated by Swedish force at Dassel, Germany.

1742 — French forces evacuate Prague, Czechoslovakia, and return to France.

1804 — Spain declares war on Britain.

1875 — Sultan of Turkey promises reforms throughout Ottoman Empire to meet rebel demands.

1887 — Turkey appeals to Western powers to mediate its war with Russia.

1894 — Japanese troops invade Korea.

1905 — Russia's Tsar Nicholas II grants constitution in Montenegro.

1920 — Martial law is declared in Cork, Ireland.

1935 — Nationalists demand restitution of Egypt's constitution of 1923.

1963 — Kenya becomes a republic within British Commonwealth.

1969 — Greece, under fire on charges of violating human rights, withdraws from Council of Europe before that nation can be expelled.

1986 — Military officials in Philippines accuse communist rebels of violating three-day-old ceasefire.

1987 — A new electoral council handpicked by Haiti's military-dominated Junta is sworn in.

1988 — Gunmen shoot and kill Belgian educator in Muslim west Beirut.

Summit that produced no results

Bush and Gorbachev both gain

RARELY has a summit meeting that produced no results of substance had such a substantive impact. It has given President George Bush the aura of a world statesman and it has strengthened Mikhail Gorbachev politically in his own country. To these two men this outcome may well mean much more than progress on an arms control agreement.

Bush badly needed to prove, above all, to Americans that he was on top of his job, in command of the issues discussed and capable of dealing with as shrewd and tough minded a man as Gorbachev. He also had the good sense of praising the Soviet leader, some whose most important policies are very much in the interest of the United States and the West. His decision not to interfere with the revolutionary upheavals in Eastern Europe is perhaps the most important one. His willingness to see the pace in matters of arms control is another one. And the economic and social reforms he is trying to introduce in the Soviet Union are the best proof that the communist system is a failure.

He cannot lose showing to the world that he is willing to help Gorbachev by suggesting a speeding up of arms control negotiations and by making things easier for him economically. Offering the lifting of the prohibition on extending to the Soviet Union the so-called "most-favoured nation clause" will not have a major impact on Soviet trade with the United States, but in the case of such exports as vodka and caviar it will cut the sales price in the United States by fifty per cent. That should have a favourable impact on sales.

Bush refrained from saying that the cold war was over and a new epoch had begun, because, as he put it, people would then ask, why Nato, why spending so much money on arms. But he went far in confirming that "we are moving toward an end to the cold war." It was that phrase which aroused right-wingers in the Republican Party who believe that Bush went too far in praising the Soviet leader as a man of peace. They point especially to the situation in Central America where forces opposed to the US-backed regimes are still getting a lot of Soviet arms.

They were amazed that the President accepted Gorbachev's denial that the Soviet Union is not any more supplying the rebel forces in El Salvador or the Nicaraguan government with arms. Thus indirectly Gorbachev blamed Fidel Castro of supplying arms once given to him by the Soviets.

Bush also seemed reassured that the Soviets are supporting the American efforts to dampen the conflict between the Israelis and the Palestine Liberation Organisation, that they are not encouraging Syria in its attempt to take over Lebanon, that, especially in the developing world, they are not stirring the fires of rebellion, but exercising a calming influence.

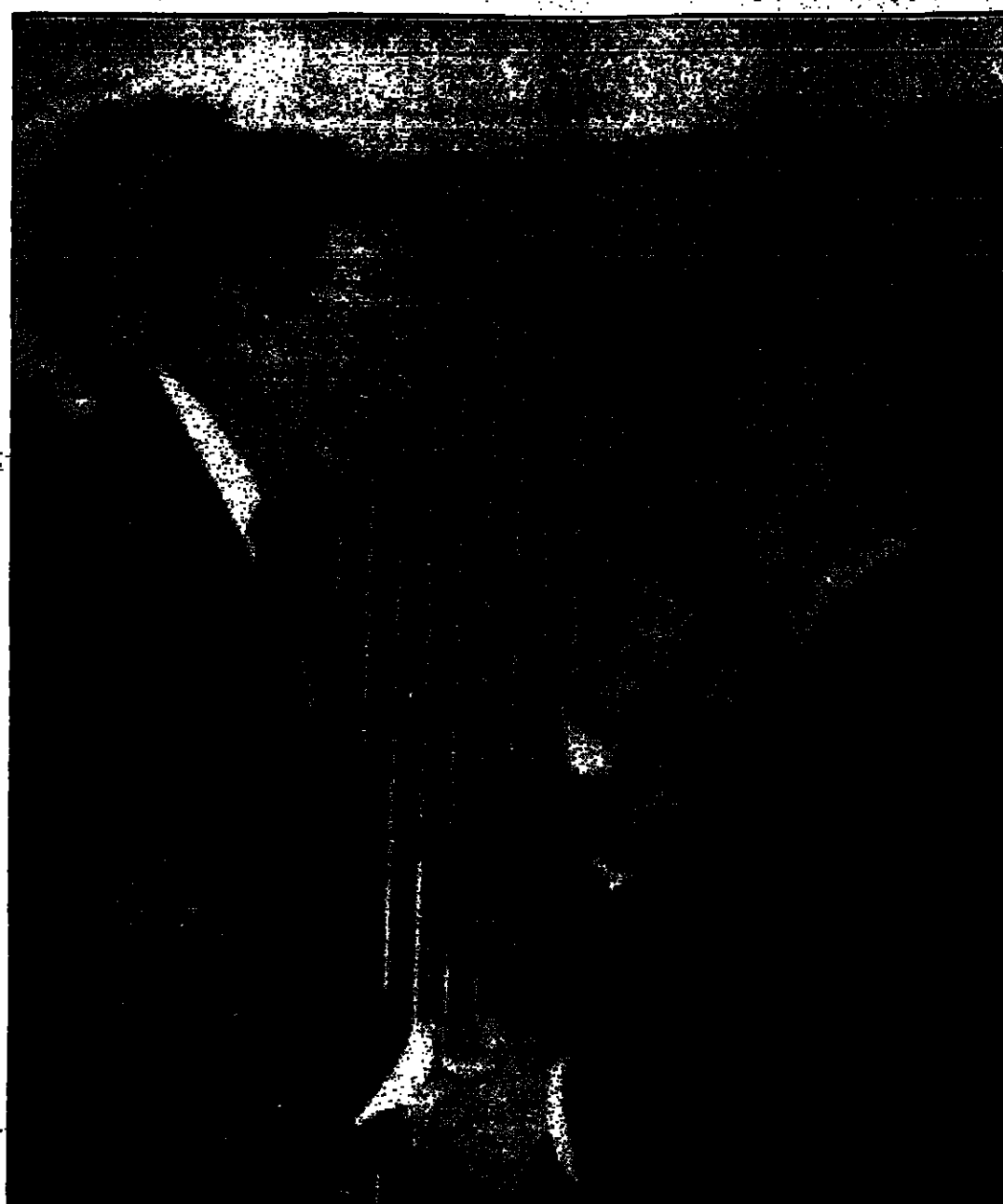
Having encouraged the overthrow of the communist regimes in Eastern Europe, Gorbachev sought and got firm assurances from Bush that the United States would not take advantage of the current turmoil to turn Eastern Europe against the Soviet Union. At the end of this discussion it was clear that both were anxious to preserve stability in Europe. For the time being at least, both consider the preservation of the Nato and Warsaw Pact as a guarantee that Europe would remain divided and that they would ensure a stable status quo. They provide a balance at a time when the political forces in Europe, often referred to as "people's power" are setting the unpredictable pace for revolutionary changes.

Whether these two military alliances can be kept alive is one of the many questions to which neither side has a clear answer. What is certain is that their function as deterrents is bound to change as their conventional forces are cut, nuclear weapons are withdrawn and, at least in the East, the presence of Soviet forces becomes increasingly unwelcome. Furthermore, the economic organisation, called Comecon, is also falling apart. It all means that the glue that kept the Eastern alliance together, is breaking up and there is not much Gorbachev will be able to do to prevent it.

He has been saying very firmly that Germany must remain divided, that East Germany is a separate state with a very separate political structure and that a federal system should keep the two linked yet still separate. However, Soviet spokesmen are beginning to admit that a unified Germany may eventually become the leading power in Europe. They hope to delay such a development as long as possible.

West Germany's economic power is already so strong, that it is bound to dominate Western Europe, and, unified, that it would become the strongest power of Europe. It is that prospect that troubles virtually all of Germany's Western allies. It is for this reason that German unification is building into a highly controversial issue. And that it could become a divisive issue between the United States and its European allies, because Washington does not quite share the European fears.

"Moving toward the end of the cold war" and the East-West confrontation ebbing will lead toward considerably higher troop cuts on both sides than



President George Bush (left) and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev shake hands as they prepare to begin their first summit meeting on Dec 2. (Reuter wirephoto)

currently contemplated at the conventional arms control negotiations. These cuts come at the right moment, for Gorbachev needs to shift funds from the huge military budget to perestroika and the United States, not far behind, needs to reduce its defence budget to cut its overall budget deficit.

These military cuts, current and future, present the military planners with the need to rethink their strategic plans and future procurements of weapons. There will have to be a shift from the emphasis on heavy and nuclear arms to lighter and much more mobile ones, not only to ensure fast reinforcements, but also to facilitate quick interventions globally, outside the European continent.

On my recent visit to the Soviet Union I found, in talking to the military, that their biggest problem is to demobilise 100,000 officers and men who need to be retrained for jobs in civilian life. They have to give up their relatively comfortable housing and food supply facilities on their military base camps and face job hunting and coping with food and consumer goods shortages as everybody else.

The West European governments, too, are planning to cut their military forces and many of the experts foresee a reduction of the Nato forces down to 100,000 within about ten years plus air and naval support. The problem for the allies will be to develop a new military strategy and to ensure that American troops will continue to be stationed in Europe. The question will also arise whether Nato forces are still necessary and if they are not, should they be replaced by a different organisation.

Jacques Delors, the president of the European Commission, has already suggested an alternative. He would like to add a department for security to the European Economic Commission. But that is an idea which has no support among the Western allies. They would, however, go along with giving very little security tasks to the EEC, such as taking on the verification procedures under various arms control agreements.

If the risks of war in Europe have receded or have become remote, they continue to exist in other parts of the globe, especially in the Middle East where warlike actions occur almost daily, whether it is in Lebanon, Israel, the West Bank, and elsewhere.

What both Moscow and Washington have come to realise is that they must find ways of co-operation and co-ordination to prevent the kind of confronta-

tions in the Third World that could drag them into war on opposite sides.

There already exists a limited exchange of intelligence in an effort to fight terrorism. Egyptian President Mubarak has made little progress so far in changing the PLO's attitude toward Palestinian participation in the peace process. In the Gaza Strip, but he, and possibly the Russians, seem to have persuaded Col Khaddafi to close down the headquarters of the Abu Nidal organisation which had its home base in Libya. This has not been publicly confirmed, but there is already a certain amount of evidence that this information may well be correct.

Cuts in the number of troops helping to protect South Korea against the North Koreans are unlikely as long as President Kim Il Sung is alive. There is a feeling in Washington that this man is too unpredictable for the US to take any risks. The Russians seem to have warned him not to initiate war, but nobody seems to have a good idea whether he would accept such advice.

In the Philippines the United States was shown last week that Aquino, is not as safe as it had been assumed. The military insurrection was more of a threat than it looked at the start when two American fighter bombers prevented further air attacks against the presidential palace. It was a warning that the United States must be much more vigilant in protecting its military bases there than it had been.

The situation in Nicaragua, El Salvador, Panama, and, last but not least, in Cuba remain constant irritants that need careful watching. There are no indications that Castro's future was discussed at the summit. But it is very obvious that without heavy Soviet financial subsidies, he could not survive. The changes in Eastern Europe, promoted by Gorbachev therefore must worry the Cuban dictator.

In the wake of the Malta summit it would seem that the superpowers are facing two major problems: one is the pace of German unification, the Soviet Union and the Western European allies want to delay as long as possible, whatever the view of the United States and the risks of conflicts on the periphery. Even if the role of the superpowers is diminishing in Europe, globally, they still have vital commitments they cannot ignore and these could, here and there, lead to serious disagreements.

"We seldom have big problems with the people here," said a senior nurse. "Of course, those who have been blinded and have lost legs or arms get depressed, but they are very patient. They don't complain too much, or cry very often."

Most of the wounded at Khao-i-Dang have lost limbs to the thousands of mines littering Cambodian war zones. Most are soldiers, but there are some civilians, too.

Outside, men in uniforms and women and children in ragged civilian clothes hobble around the dusty compound on bamboo crutches or crude wooden legs. Others are in wheelchairs.

With the worsening fighting, Urs Boegly, senior delegate of the International Committee of the Red Cross in Bangkok, said the organization was trying to expand operations inside Cambodia.

"Our biggest priority is to set up medical and emergency facilities in Battambang and beyond," he said.

Medics involved in postoperative care admit facilities are rudimentary, but say they are still better than at the front-line hospitals.

"Almost all the people who have had amputations at field hospitals have had problems. Even Khao-i-Dang is not ideal," said Martine Relyveld, field co-ordinator of the French relief agency, operation handicap international.

Conditions at the many guerrilla bases, where international organizations are not allowed to work, are often primitive.

Letters to the editor

Party misused

SIR: While heartily congratulating V P Singh, the dynamic prime minister of India, I recall the comments of a former president of India. He said: "Rajiv is a good person, but was surrounded by a coterie of evil people."

In Kuwait, we are familiar with quite a few NRI who misused the Congress Party in the most despicable way. We still remember how they shamelessly collected money from residents of Abbasiya/Farwaniya — on the day of Indira Gandhi's assassination — to fill their pockets.

Everybody is aware of the fact that these people were living on Congress Party. Unless and until the Congress Party weeds out these "parasites," it's not going to improve. You could find these "leaders," showing visiting cards, endorsing their post as "Congress leader in Gulf" and misusing Congress Party and their connection in Delhi and Trivandrum. They used to boast that they could dial their friends in Delhi and get things done overnight. Now it all over and I heard they are trying to get some hold in the other camp (Janata Dal).

Is it permitted to sponsor political parties, members and bring them to Kuwait. The pity is that the sponsors start a collection for the guests' and hosts' expenses from the Indians here as soon as the VIP leaves Kuwait. Using these connections, they make money by black marketing, recruitment and other malicious activities. It's well known to everybody in Kuwait.

Late leaders like Indira Gandhi, Jawaharlal Nehru, Mahatma Gandhi and others will shudder in their graves, if they hear about such "fake Congress leaders" collecting money abroad, in the name of Congress Party to fill their pockets.

An AT Reader

ALL Letters to the Editor must contain the writer's name and address. Publication is at the discretion of the Editor and letters are subject to the editing process for space or other reasons.

Kaifu shows his weakness

TOKYO, (Reuter): Japanese Prime Minister Kaifu revealed his weak toehold on power in a series of key policy decisions and is aiming to regain ascendancy through diplomatic forays to Eastern Europe, analysts said.

Kaifu was virtually ignored in heated arguments among powerbrokers of his ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) last week over the planned overhaul of an unpopular sales tax. Kaifu, billed as an energetic but inexperienced figure, came to power in August mainly because powerful party bosses were sidelined due to their links with the Recruit shares-for-favours scandal.

He included former Foreign Minister Shintaro Abe and former Finance Minister Kiichi Miyazawa in his cabinet. Kaifu's move to include Miyazawa, a powerful 100-member group led by former Premier Noboru Takeshita, Miyazawa and Abe. Members of parliament in both houses from the LDP's quarrelsome factions.

"Thanks for the bitter medicine this morning," Kaifu was quoted by the influential daily Asahi Shimbun as telling Finance Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto in parliament.

The overnight debate over rates of reduction and whether to exempt food from the three per cent sales tax took place with Hashimoto and former Premier Takeshita speaking against former vice premier Shin Kanemaru.

The inept introduction of the sales tax, slapped on all goods and services since last April, was one reason for the LDP's worst electoral setback in four decades in upper house elections last July.

The Recruit scandal, government policies to open the farm trade to imports and allegations that then-premier, Sosuke Uno, paid for sex with a geisha also contributed to the LDP's crushing defeat.

In the intra-party debate over the tax, Hashimoto brought in the weight of the powerful Finance Ministry and forced compromise: reduce the tax to 1.5 per cent on all foodstuffs and eliminate it for retail food.

That was not what Kaifu wanted.

Quote me

"We see this as an attempt to blackmail us. We are waiting for official notification from Fifa and we would have then a number of options by way of reaction. One option that readily comes to mind is to boycott all Fifa-organised games. We will not stop at that. We will do everything in our power to persuade other reasonable African countries to join us in the boycott." — Vice-Adm. Augustus Aikhomu, No. 2 in the military government of Nigeria on Fifa rejection of bid to host the under-20 World Youth Soccer Championship.

"At Malta, chairman Gorbachev and I took our first hopeful step into a new Soviet-American relationship. We took our first step towards the next decade and the new world that is taking shape." — US President George Bush.

"Mr de Klerk, your back is to the wall. Come stand on the floor of a conference like this... Submit to the processes of democracy." — Walter Sisulu, ANC member.

"Our mission to Malta was about peace. Not the kind of uneasy peace that we've known for the last 40 years — hard and cold — but about the new kind of peace we aspire to: one that is rich with the promise of permanence." — President George Bush.

"They had a comfortable position in the old equilibrium. They blackmailed one against the other, but now they know that the game is up." — A Western ambassador on East-West detente in relations to Libya.

"Perhaps it was the one team we were hoping would not fall for us. I think perhaps everyone was looking for those two teams not to be drawn together. We like the Dutch and they like us. There's no reason why we should have problems off the field. We stood by each other during the war and let's hope it's a day when football wins." — England manager Bobby Robson on being drawn in the World Cup with the Netherlands.

"I'm surrounded by people who love me and care for me. This award belongs to one person who has stuck by me for 20 years and has made it through the past 14 weeks (since the cancer surgery). This is for my wife (Altaviva). She belongs in the Hall of Fame." — Sammy Davis Jr after being presented with the Hall of Fame award.



Rights award

Former US president Jimmy Carter greets Mona Rishmawi, executive director of the Palestinian group Al-Haq (centre) and Fatah Azzam, administrative director of Al-Haq, which, along with the Israeli group B'Tselem won the fourth annual Carter-Menil human rights prize. (Reuter wirephoto)

Students agitate

Tunisian Islamic group seeks recognition

TUNIS, Dec 11, (Reuters): A wave of unrest by Muslim militant students has hit Tunisian universities and secondary schools at the same time as the Nahdha (renaissance) Movement, the main Islamic group, is making a new bid for recognition as a party.

Students have been boycotting classes, out on the streets in illegal demonstrations and airing grievances such as poor food and housing for several weeks.

The agitation went one step further last week, when 96 students at Tunis's Zaitouna University began a hunger strike in protest at plans to move them to new premises. Today 75 of them were in their eighth day on a diet of sugared water.

The Islamic-led Tunisian General Union of Students, the lar-

gest of two student organisations, today called a one-day general strike at all Tunisian universities for Thursday in solidarity with the hunger strikers.

Nahdha Movement leader Hamadi Jebali told Reuters today the unrest stemmed from genuine student grievances against the policies of Education Minister Mohamed Sharfi, a liberal secularist who once headed Tunisia's human rights league.

"It has nothing to do with our campaign for legal recognition or our own criticisms of Sharfi," he added.

Jebali said the Nahdha was going to make a formal application for legal status to the interior ministry later today, a first application for legal status to the interior ministry later today, a

first application was turned down in June.

But government officials and the official press are accusing the Nahdha of stirring up the students to put pressure on the government when it decides on the application.

"It's straightforward blackmail. In effect, they are saying recognise us as a party and we'll guarantee you calm on the campuses," an official told Reuters today.

"These people always speak with forked tongues. On the one hand they allow their members to do what they want, then they tell us this is the work of other groups," he added.

The leadership of the Nahdha Movement denied organising a demonstration in central Tunis last Thursday.

Two die in clash with SLA

RASHAYA, Dec 11, (Agencies): Pro-Israeli militiamen killed two gunmen and wounded three today during a clash in south Lebanon, an Israeli-run radio station said.

The gunmen, who were not identified, exchanged rocket-propelled grenade and machine-gun fire with militiamen of the South Lebanon Army (SLA) inside Israel's self-declared security zone. Voice of the South said.

The radio said two of the wounded gunmen were critically injured after the clash in the area of Bint Jbeil.

A nearby SLA position in the village of Barasheet was also attacked but there were no casualties, the radio added.

It said fighters of the Islamic resistance, a coalition of Muslim groups including the pro-Iranian Hezbollah, fired four shells at an SLA position in Zummara at the eastern edge of the zone, but only damaged buildings.

Israeli troops and SLA militiamen patrol the 15 km (nine mile) wide buffer strip, which stretches from the Mediterranean to the Bekaa valley in the east.

A landmine exploded on the edge of Israel's self-declared security zone in Southern Lebanon today, killing a pro-Israeli militiaman and wounding two others, Israeli security sources said.

They said the mine exploded north of Hasbaya just after four Soviet-designed Katyusha rockets hit the area. No damage or injuries were caused by the rocket attack.

Meanwhile, another SLA position in Braachit, eight kilometres (five miles) north of Bint Jbeil came under machine gun and rocket fire from unidentified commandos.

Iraqi in Bahrain for regional talks

BAHRAIN, Dec 11, (Reuters): The vice-chairman of Iraq's Revolutionary Command Council arrived in Bahrain today to discuss regional developments with Bahraini leaders, the official Gulf news agency said.

Izzat Ibrahim, the third Iraqi official to visit Bahrain in two weeks, was met at the airport by Prime Minister Sheikh Khalifa Bin Sulman Al Khalifa.

Bahrain, like other Arab states in the six-member Gulf Co-operation Council, generally supported Iraq during the eight-year Gulf war with Iran which ended with a UN-brokered ceasefire in August 1988.

Iraqi Defence Minister General Abdul Jabbar Shanshal visited Bahrain for the first time since the ceasefire last month. Talks aimed at securing a lasting peace have made little progress. The foreign ministers of Iraq and Iran were due to meet the UN Secretary-General in New York this week.

Ibrahim's visit to Bahrain followed fresh moves by Iran to win support from Gulf Arab states.

Riad Al Quaisi, legal department director at Iraq's foreign ministry, visited Bahrain last week to brief leaders on recent peace missions to Baghdad and Tehran by UN envoy Jan Eliasson.

Israel believes Iran paid FRC killed Belgian Jew

OCUPIED JERUSALEM, Dec 11, (Reuters): Israeli security sources said today the Jewish state believed the Fatah Revolutionary Council (FRC), led by Abu Nidal, killed a prominent Belgian Jew in October.

The sources said a Jerusalem Post report was correct in saying that Israel was convinced the group, acting for Iran, killed Dr Joseph Wybran in a Brussels parking lot on October 3.

The sources declined to say what evidence Israel had for making its accusation against the FRC.

The Jerusalem Post, in what appeared to be an official Israeli leak, said only that the killers were members of a cell named after Abul El Eid, an FRC official killed in Palestinian fighting in Lebanon two weeks earlier.

A group in Lebanon named "soldiers of truth" claimed it killed Wybran.

The newspaper, quoting "well-informed Israeli sources" said Iran paid for the killing to avenge Israel's abduction of Sheikh Abdel Karim Obeid, a leader of the radical Lebanese Shiite Muslim group Hezbollah.

Israel seized Obeid, a pro-Iranian cleric, in South Lebanon last July and is holding him in a bid to win freedom for Israeli prisoners and Western hostages held captive in Lebanon.

Belgian police have not solved Wybran's murder.

The Jerusalem Post said the first person killed by the FRC "at Iran's behest, the sources said, appears to have been the prominent Belgian Jewish leader, Dr Joseph Wybran."

Iranian Kurds vow to fight on

BAGHDAD, Dec 11, (AP): Iranian Kurdish guerrillas elected a replacement to their assassinated leader and vowed to continue fighting the central government in Tehran for autonomy, a spokesman for the movement said today.

Chafour Hamzai, the spokesman of the Kurdish Democratic Party in Iran, told the Associated Press in a telephone interview that Dr Sadiq Sharafkandi was elected as new secretary-general unanimously during a five-day meeting of the party last week.

He replaced Abdul Rahman Qas-

semou, who was assassinated in Vienna on July 13 while negotiating with Iranian government representatives for ending the Iranian Kurds' protracted rebellion.

Hamzai said Sharafkandi, known by his nom de guerre of Saeed Badal, or Saeed the Brave, and five other guerrilla leaders elected to the party's Central Committee vowed "to continue armed struggle until the achievement of autonomy for the 6.5 million Kurds in Iran."

The party meeting took place in the mountains of northern Iraq close to the Iranian border where the guerrillas main-

tain their bases, Hamzai said. He did not reveal how many members attended.

The Iranian Kurds escalated their fight against Tehran during the eight-year-long Iran-Iraq war thanks mainly to military backing received from Iraq.

Iraqi Kurds, who have also been fighting for autonomy against Baghdad, received military backing from Iran at the same time.

With the end of the Gulf war, through the implementation of a UN-sponsored ceasefire in August last year, each central government launched major attacks

against its own rebel group.

The Iranian Kurds continue to operate from bases in Iraqi Kurdistan, just across the border from Iran.

Sharafkandi, 53, is a graduate of the Sorbonne University in Paris with a doctorate in physics and is a former professor of nuclear chemistry at Tehran University. He has been a member of the KDP of Iran since 1974.

Hamzai said Salam Azizi, the military commander of the guerrillas, known as Peshmerga, or those who face death, was also elected to the new Central Committee.

Beirut peace team in Paris

PARIS, Dec 11, (Reuters): The foreign ministers of Algeria, Morocco and Saudi Arabia arrived in France today to pursue a quest for peace in Lebanon with President Francois Mitterrand.

Two of the Arab peacemakers — Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Saud Al Faisal and Algeria's Ahmed Ghazali — arrived from Baghdad where they met President Saddam Hussein and Arab League envoy Lakhdar Brahimi yesterday.

The officials delivered a message to Saddam from the Arab Higher Committee for Lebanon, made up of the heads of state of Saudi Arabia, Algeria and Morocco. Contents of the letter were not disclosed.

The Iraqi meetings followed an earlier round of talks in Damascus.

Along with Moroccan Foreign Minister Abdelkader Filali they will meet Mitterrand and French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas.

Syrian President Hafez Al Assad, who has more than 45,000 troops in Lebanon, was quoted by the Syrian news agency Sana this weekend as telling the mediators force would probably be needed to oust Aoun.

France and the United States are among countries opposed to the use of force against Aoun and his 15,000-strong army in Lebanon's Christian enclave.

The mediators are expected to visit the Vatican after their talks in France. French officials said they might also see Prime Minister Michel Rocard but no time was set for the meeting.

Mitterrand, who has been criticised by Syria and its allies in Lebanon for appearing to favour the Christian community, said in a televised interview that Paris maintained an even-handed approach to the crisis in Lebanon.

Prince Saud told reporters when he left Damascus that the Arab peace team wanted to remove obstacles to the peace plan under which Hlrawi was elected.

Arafat stress on right to represent

Israel seeks US assurances

WASHINGTON, Dec 11, (Agencies): Palestinians should be able to choose their own representatives at US-backed talks on the Middle East peace process, PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat told a US interview panel.

Asked about Israel's refusal to negotiate with the PLO, Arafat said, "with whom they are going to make peace? With ghosts?"

Arafat was speaking by satellite from Baghdad, Iraq, on the NBC television network's "Meet the Press," which was taped on Saturday and aired on Sunday.

Asked if he could assure Israel that a Palestinian state would pose no threat to the Jewish state, Arafat replied, "we want to live in peace with all our neighbours, including the Israelis."

"We are looking for a brave man, a brave leader among the Israeli leadership, to accept, to start the peace processes, to implement real peace in the land of peace," he said.

He acknowledged that if a Palestinian state were created, it would seek to confederate with Jordan.

"The Palestinians and their leadership have the right to designate their representatives, as well as the Israeli government will designate their delegation," he said.

"If they want the PLO to participate in this negotiation, definitely, we have the right," the PLO chairman said.

"I am going to make peace with my enemies... and for this I had already appealed to them to come to start negotiations, to implement a just and comprehensive settlement," Arafat added.

Arafat said he has "nothing to gain" from Middle East peace talks advocated by the Bush administration among Israel, Egypt and United States.

The PLO leader steadfastly refused to confirm negotiations he had approved Egypt's role in the talks sponsored by Secretary of State James Baker.

"I have nothing to gain with this meeting because I am not involved at all in this meeting," Arafat said in the interview.

"This is a meeting between three countries: United States, Israel and Egypt."

"If you accept as an American to let the Soviet Union designate the American delegation, OK," Arafat said in an apparent denial that he had designated Mubarak as spokesman for the Palestinians.

"Why not deal with the Palestinians? They are human beings."

"I think it is clear and obvious that President Mubarak had declared officially many times that he hadn't the right to represent the PLO," Arafat said.

In a move that could further delay the first Israeli-Palestinian peace talks, Israel is asking stronger US assurances the PLO will not be involved, Israeli officials said today.

According to the officials, Israeli wants the new assurances before Foreign Minister Moshe Arens agrees to attend a preliminary meeting in Washington expected to work out a Palestinian delegation to the first direct talks with Israeli representatives.

Arens said on army radio he still was suspicious of the PLO. "If this is what will be, I fear that we won't get very far," Arens said.

In the occupied lands, meanwhile, soldiers shot and wounded nine Palestinians in clashes with stone-throwing youths, Arab reports said.

The confrontations were touched off by the fatal shootings of two Palestinians yesterday, by Israeli civilians who opened fire after stone-throwing attacks on their vehicles.

Shops closed in the occupied Gaza Strip and parts of Jerusalem today in protest.

The army said troops today demolished the homes of three suspects in the slaying of an alleged Palestinian collaborator with Israel.

Two British women were jailed after rampaging through a Palestinian village dressed up in the uniforms of an Israeli soldier and a border policeman, a police spokesman said today.

"One of the women also threw tear-gas grenade at an Arab house, but it failed to go off," he said. The two women were in uniform when arrested on Friday night.

Jordan Crown Prince Hassan left for France and the United States today to confer with their leaders on prospects for Arab-Israeli peace, the official Jordan news agency reported.

Palestinians marched in Amman and a refugee camp near the capital yesterday in support of the two-year-old uprising in the Israeli-occupied territories.

For the third night running, about 100 protesters in the Baqa camp just north of Amman clashed briefly with police who used tear-gas. There were no reports of casualties.

Nobel peace prize winner Elie Wiesel predicted last night that Israel would eventually negotiate with the PLO, despite its assertions that it would never do so.

British Foreign Office minister has denounced "Israel's daily arbitrary practices against the Palestinian people," the Oman New Agency reported.

William Waldegrave angered Israel earlier this year by calling for an end to its military occupation of Arab territories.

Israel warns

OCUPIED JERUSALEM, Dec 11, (Reuters): Israel warned today it might not attend talks with the foreign ministers of the United States and Egypt to prepare for the first formal Israeli-Palestinian peace talks.

In an interview, Foreign Minister Moshe Arens backed away from Israel's acceptance of the Washington meeting next month, telling army radio he would not attend the PLO would not be involved.

"The main problem I see is Egypt's stance. If it is clear that Egypt has no independent stance here, that Egypt simply represents the PLO, I would say that given the course we've embarked on now, we would not come," Arens said.

Chinese envoy

BAHRAIN, Dec 11, (Reuters): China's first ambassador to Bahrain presented his credentials today to the Amir, Sheikh Isa Bin Sulman Al Khalifa, the Gulf News Agency said.

It said ambassador Guan Zi Hui called on the Amir and Foreign Minister Sheikh Mohammed Bin Mubarak Al Khalifa.

Bahrain established diplomatic ties with China in April.

China denies

BEIJING, Dec 11, (Reuters): China said today it had never planned to sell missiles to Syria, denying western news reports that a US mission to Beijing at the weekend was sent to discourage any such deal.

"Foreign news services said that China is preparing to sell M-9 missiles to Syria. This report is groundless," national television news quoted a Foreign Ministry spokesman as saying.

The US Cable News Network, quoting a source in Congress, said that a surprise visit to Beijing by National Security Adviser Brent Scowcroft was a mission to "discourage the Chinese from selling ballistic missiles to Syria."

Mubarak's visit

CAIRO, Dec 11, (AP): President Mubarak is going to Moscow in the first half of next year, the Soviet ambassador to Cairo said today. It will be his first visit to the Soviet Union since undergoing military training there as a young air force officer.

Ambassador Gennady Zhuravlev told reporters the agenda will include relations between the former close allies as well as international issues.

Zhuravlev, who spoke after briefing Foreign Minister Esmat Abdel Maguid on this month's summit meeting of US President George Bush and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev, gave no date for Mubarak's trip. The ambassador's comments were distributed by the government's Middle East news agency.

Shamir in hospital

OCUPIED JERUSALEM, Dec 11, (Reuters): Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir went into hospital yesterday for a hernia operation, his spokesman said.

Shamir, 74, will undergo long-planned surgery tomorrow or Wednesday at Jerusalem's Hadassah Ein Kerem hospital.

"It's a simple operation that will take a few days of rest in the hospital and a few days of rest at home," Avi Pazner, Shamir's media adviser, told Reuters.

'Scrap resolution'

NEW YORK, Dec 11, (Reuters): US Vice-President Dan Quayle called on the United Nations to scrap its "infamous" 1975 resolution equating Zionism with racism, saying this would be a major step towards helping the world body regain its moral stature.

Quayle said the United States would call on the Soviet Union and other nations to join in co-sponsoring a new resolution affirming that Zionism was "the national liberation movement of the Jewish people."

Saleh visits

AMMAN, Dec 11, (Kuna): President of Yemen Arab Republic Ali Abdullah Saleh begins an official visit to Jordan tomorrow, it was announced here today.

During his visit, Saleh will have talks with King Hussein of Jordan on developments in the Arab arena and a number of other issues of mutual interest.



Mask parade

Palestinians dressed in similar overalls with different masks march in a parade commemorating the 22nd anniversary of the foundation of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine in the occupied West Bank town of Bir Zeit. (Reuter wirephoto)

Release Western hostages, Iran's advice to its friends in Lebanon

DOHA, Qatar, Dec 11, (AP): Iran has been advising its "friends" in Lebanon to release their Western hostages, a senior Iranian official said in an interview published today in the newspaper Al Raya.

"We have directed our advice to our friends in Lebanon to cease their acts with respect to the kidnapping of the Western hostages," Deputy Foreign Minister Ali Mohammed Besharati said.

"But the problem is that every time the atmosphere becomes propitious for the release of the hostages, there are counter-incidents that cloud the atmosphere."

The paper said he was specifically

referring to the kidnapping by Israeli commandos of Sheikh Abdul Karim Obeid, a Shiite Muslim preacher from south Lebanon, on July 28.

On July 31, Shiite Muslim kidnappers of the Organisation of the Oppressed on Earth said they killed their American hostage Lt. Col. William Higgins in retaliation for the kidnapping.

Most of the 18 hostages held in Lebanon are believed to be in the hands of Iranian-backed Shiite groups. They are eight Americans, four Britons, two West Germans, two Swiss, an Irishman and an Italian.

The longest held is Terry Anderson, chief Middle East correspondent for the Associated Press, who was kidnapped on March 16, 1985 in West Beirut.

The death of Ayatollah Khomeini and the election of the more pragmatic President Hashemi Rafsanjani gave rise to some hopes of Iranian pressure on the kidnappers to free their captives.

But Besharati insisted in the interview that there was "no differences as reported between hardliners and moderates after the Imam Khomeini's demise... all that is circulated in that connection is Western propaganda."

The Iranian official concluded a two-day visit to Qatar yesterday after delivering a message from Rafsanjani to the Amir, Sheikh Khalifa Bin Hamad Al Thani.

Before coming to Qatar, Besharati visited the United Arab Emirates as part of Iran's active contacts with the Gulf Co-operation Council member states ahead of their annual summit on Dec 18 in Oman.

Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati was recently in Oman, and messages from Rafsanjani also have been delivered to the rulers of Kuwait and

Bahrain.

Relations between Iran and the GCC states, with the exception of Saudi Arabia, have been steadily improving since it accepted the UN-sponsored ceasefire to an eight-year war with Arab Iraq.

The GCC states have been mediating between Baghdad and Tehran and engaged in international contacts to push through the Iraq-Iran peace pact. With the situation in the Gulf at a top item on the upcoming GCC summit, Oman in particular has been most active.

Iran shows off US missiles

NICOSIA, Dec 11, (Reuters): Fighter-bombers and helicopters today joined more than 200 navy vessels in the third day of Iran's biggest exercise in the Gulf in a decade, Tehran radio reported.

It said revolutionary guards naval units taking part in the manoeuvres were equipped with Stingers — a US-built shoulder-held anti-aircraft missile — and other anti-aircraft weapons systems.

Tehran Radio said naval units staged mock attacks on surface and underwater objects and fired on drones. Remote-controlled boats were led to designated targets and helicopters practiced mine-sweeping operations.

Two new vessels built by the Revolutionary Guards took part in the exercises for the first time, the radio said.

Some 10,000 men from Iran's regular navy and revolutionary guards are taking part in the exercise, codenamed Zolfaghar-5.

The week-long manoeuvres are Iran's biggest war games since the 1979 revolution, the radio said.

CP 11/12/89

What is good for the gander is not good for the goose

By Jadranka Porter
Arab Times staff

MOST Western women married to Kuwaitis find out about their rights in case of divorce or husband's death only after they arrive in Kuwait and often when their marriage is on the rocks. What they learn can be disappointing as it usually falls short of what they would be entitled to back home.

This is why Western women, almost without exception, view the Kuwaiti family law as vastly biased in favour of men.

They are quick to cite an example: it is a crime punishable by up to 10 years in prison if a divorced mother abducts her children. But if the father does the same, the act is not considered a criminal offence.

Defenders of local laws point out that Kuwaiti legislators devised the personal status law with Kuwaitis, and not foreigners, in mind. They claim that women are well protected not only by laws but other socially accepted practices. They quote the example of a pre-nuptial contract, which specified the husband's financial responsibility in case of divorce and which is negotiated by parents rather than the bride and the bridegroom.

Kuwaiti attorney-at-law Abdullah S.A. Rkayan, who has counselled many Western women, stresses that Kuwaiti courts do not discriminate against foreign women. His advice to foreign wives is simple: discard

rumours and learn about the law from professionals. "You may not like it but make sure you know it," he stressed.

Custody
But learning about the laws and their application can be riddled with difficulties. Rkayan acknowledges that there are points not clearly defined either in Islam or in the Personal Status Law. The decision in such cases is left to the judge, and lawyers and the public can get informed only by reviewing precedent cases, if there have been any.

In Rkayan's experience, most of the legal battles between Western women and their Arab husbands centre on custody of children, an area where Islamic and Western laws are at variance. The law states that in case of divorce, custody of the children is granted to the mother while the father is obliged to provide for the children and make sure that the children are brought up in "a correct manner."

If the father is a Sunni, courts grant custody of boys under the age of 15 and daughters until they get married, to their mother.

In cases where the father belongs to the Jaffari sect, the mother is awarded custody of sons under the age of seven and daughters under nine. After that age a judge decides whether to award custody to the father or the mother, bearing in mind the children's well being. These rules apply only if the mother is Muslim, irrespective of her nationality.

Non-Muslim mothers can keep sons under the age of seven and daughters under nine irrespective of their father's Muslim sect.

The mother loses custody of her children if she re-marries. However, a judge can allow the mother to retain custody if she marries a man who is not a stranger to the children, such as her former husband's brother, Rkayan said.

If the mother falls seriously ill, if she reverts to her former religion or if her life-style makes her an unfit mother, she loses custody of children.

Claims that the mother is unfit to take care of the children because she is an alcoholic, a drug user or indulges in immoral behaviour have to be proved in court, says Rkayan.

Kidnap
A sure way to lose her children would be for the mother to attempt to take her children out of the country for good, and get caught. "The mother cannot take her children out of Kuwait without their father's consent because he won't be able to supervise their upbringing," says Rkayan.

If she steals her children out of the country then she is charged with kidnapping and faces a sentence of up to 10 years in prison. If the father does the same it is not a crime.

When a Kuwaiti father abducts his children in a foreign country, foreign law enforcement authorities are helpless.

They can demand prosecution through

Interpol for only those crimes that are considered an offence under the Kuwaiti law and then only if Kuwait has a reciprocal agreement with that country allowing it to chase offenders on their territory.

Rkayan recalls a case which illustrates the complexity of the problem but leaves no doubt as to where the law stands on the issue of child abduction.

The case involves a couple, both British nationals, who divorced in Britain with the mother having custody of their son.

The father, employed in Kuwait, kidnapped the son and brought him to Kuwait. The mother filed a lawsuit in Kuwait. The Court of First Instance sentenced the man to four years in jail. However, the Supreme Court overruled the verdict setting the man free.

"The highest judicial authority in the country explained that there is no such thing as the father kidnapping his own child. Period," says Rkayan.

If the mother loses custody of her children then they will go to her mother or another female relative, but if there are none the father will be granted custody.

Cases where a mother's female relative is awarded custody are rare as the relative would have to live in Kuwait and support herself.

Support
Even a divorced mother is entitled only to a three-month alimony from her former hus-

band. The exception is made only if she is still breastfeeding or if the judge decides that she was divorced "for no good reason." In such cases, the husband would be compelled to support her for a year. After that she is on her own. The mother's female relative looking after the children would not qualify for any financial support.

Rkayan says that a number of Western mothers have given up custody of their children because of inability to provide for them or because they have to spend long hours at work. However, mothers of Kuwaiti children are entitled to a limited financial support from the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, says Rkayan.

If the father dies, his wife and children will be taken care of by the Department of Minor Affairs at the Ministry of Justice. This department was primarily set up to take care of the children's inheritance, including the investment of their funds or running their property, and to preclude abuse of children's inheritance by greedy relatives. The mother can contest the department's decision to act as a trustee and is likely to be given a fair consideration.

Widowed non-Muslim women are not entitled to any inheritance. Muslim widows without children inherit one-fourth and widows with children one-eighth of their late husband's estate. A will left by the husband in an Islamic country is of little value for the widow.

If there is a testament giving the wife the ownership of her husband's property, the wife will still be entitled to a maximum of one-third of the inheritance and only if his family agrees to it.

Advice
Rkayan says that if the husband wants to provide financial security for his wife he should place funds into a bank account which is in her name only or make sure that whatever property he wants to leave her is also in her name.

However, non-Kuwaitis cannot own property in Kuwait and foreign wives who have attempted to get a Kuwaiti nationality face difficulties. They can apply for a Kuwaiti nationality to the Ministry of Interior only with their husband's consent. The nationality can be granted only after a period of 15 years from the date of the application but even then the decision is left to the Minister of Interior's discretion. Foreign passport holders must be prepared to renounce their original citizenship when they get Kuwaiti nationality. Dual nationality is not recognised in Kuwait.

Rkayan says there is a lot of confusion about Kuwaiti laws among the foreign wives. Several American women married to Kuwaitis, who are familiar with local legislation, told the Arab Times that they make sure that newly arrived foreign wives are made aware of the Kuwaiti law precepts.

Religious difference affects marriage

Genuine understanding can save relationship

By Diana Abou Haider
Arab Times Staff

COUPLES in interfaith marriages, counsellors and clergy agree that problems caused by differences in religion could seriously affect a marriage. But they also agree that with genuine understanding, tolerance and smart negotiation, it is possible to turn these threatening problems into enriching experiences. They all identify the following problem areas that need to be explored and worked out early in the relationship:

— The religion in which the children are to be raised.

— Celebrating holidays.

— In-law troubles.

In his book, *Intercultural Marriage, Promises and Pitfalls*, Dugan Romano says that even between couples from the same

country, different religious beliefs can be a cause of conflict in marriage "not only because the partners may not be in agreement on where and how to worship as a family, but because so much of what people do and believe, their attitudes about what is right and wrong and their philosophy of life stem from their religious backgrounds."

Marrying somebody from a different religion and a different culture could complicate problems even further. Although Laura, 26, says she is happy in her marriage to Ali, 34, graduate student at the University of Colorado at Boulder, she feels that their being of two different religions (Christianity and Islam) places an extra burden on their relationship. "If I had a cousin who was just starting to

date somebody from a different religion, I would be on the phone telling her not to go through with it," she says.

Although they have been married for two years, Laura says she is glad they did not "jump into having children" because she is discovering that when the children come, they will force Ali and her to make difficult decisions. "I did not think of Christening until a friend of mine was telling me about her child's christening party. I said to myself, 'Now wait a minute, I want a christening party for my children, too,'" Laura says.

The memory of her first Christmas with Ali has stuck in Laura's mind. It was without a tree. Laura says that it hurt to have a treeless Christmas not because she is religious, but

because she wanted to be like her mother who always had a huge tree with a star on top.

Jenevive and Ismail Razik of Burlington, N.J., USA, were aware of the difference in their religions when they got married in Cairo, Egypt, 29 years ago. Jenevive's grandfather was a Presbyterian minister and Ismail's uncle was a Muslim sheikh. When they decided to marry after a long courtship, they learned about each other's religions and discussed their future life together thoroughly.

The Raziks says that it takes a long time and a lot of perseverance to make such marriages work, especially when the couple has the influence of different cultures in addition to different religions working against their marriage.

One woman's story

'I am trapped'

By Jadranka Porter

LUELLA NASSER, an American Kuwaiti, feels her life is under siege. Pitted in a battle against her former husband over custodial rights to her three daughters she is also fighting to retain her Kuwaiti nationality and regain her monthly wages.

"Life has been hell the past two years. I feel myself going down, down, down. I am included in the fold of all the sad Arabs that live here struggling to survive," she says in despair.

Luella claims she is one of those foreign women who had invested in their marriage with a Kuwaiti everything they have — their money, ability and even their American citizenship. After years, she said, she had striven to be loyal Kuwaiti ("I was so idealistic I even used to sing the anthem"), a good Muslim, exemplary wife and mother, highly professional at work.

Now, 22 years after she landed in Kuwait with her husband, she is divorced, short of money and facing the prospect of losing her children and becoming stateless.

And she says she is entirely on her own. She feels betrayed by the husband she once loved, the system she strove to be part of the friends that once were.

"I am trapped. I can leave but what about my children. Can I live with my conscience knowing they are sick or suffering," she asks.

But there is still some fire left in Luella's. With no intention to concede defeat she is planning a counter attack.

As soon as the question of custody is decided she will slam charges against her ex-husband — for harassment and half of the house they lived in.

"I am going to get my rights to the very end. He will have to pay for everything that he has done to me," she remarks wryly. "I believe that in his way he loved me. But he mistreated me and pushed me to spend all my money," she recalls.

In one violent outburst, she claims, her husband kicked her causing her to miscarry. She has a medical report to support her claim. With her failing health — she was then suffering from cancer — her husband's physical abuse and his avarice, she was at the end of her tether. She wanted out.

In the five years since her divorce, Luella's daughters have lived most of the time with her.

When recently Luella, who single-handedly provided for her daughters needs, won a claim to child support of a total of KD 105 per month their father filed for custody rights. To succeed in his plan, she claims, he has used false statements and played dirty either to improve his prospects in the case or to intimidate Luella into leaving the country.

She could barely count on her Kuwaiti nationality as her husband accused her of holding the American passport. Although she has had a Kuwaiti passport since 1976, her repeated requests for a citizenship certificate have fallen on deaf ears. Without the certificate she cannot apply for the Civil ID and when her passport expires she might find that she is stateless.

Luella's husband also withdrew the financial guarantee for a project she was working on, a development that led to a suspension of her wages.

He charged in court that



Luella helped her eldest daughter run away to the US while she says the 20-year old girl escaped from a cruel father who punched her, puncturing her ear drum.

For that she has a medical report.

Luella dismisses his charges as groundless. She has collected all the necessary documentation to prove that in court. But the process is wearing her down.

Aware that she cannot repair the damage that had been done

to her life, she is anxious to warn girls planning to marry an Arab of the pitfalls ahead.

Her advice: "Don't marry for love, because love is not a reason that you marry for in the Middle East. Instead marry for what will be important for you in 10 years."

The question is would she, the "cock-eyed" optimist that she once was, have acted on the same advice 22 years ago.

Rights of foreign wives

By Linda Al Khalifa
Arab Times Staff

THE rights of women is a very important issue among foreign women married to Kuwaitis. Some of these women become Kuwaitis and convert to Islam, while others do not.

The rights of both groups during marriage and after the death of their husbands are specified in the Kuwaiti Personal Status Law, Kuwaiti lawyer Khalid Taher said. The law is based on the Islamic law "Sharia."

Foreign Muslim wives have the same rights as the Kuwaiti wives except property ownership. The foreign wife has to sell the property and take cash as her share in case of her husband's death. She can inherit the estate according to the rules, whether she is married or not. Muslim wives are entitled to accommodation and food provided in accordance with the husband's income. The husband should bear all the expenses incurred by his wife even if she is well off or has an independent income. Article 74 of the Personal Status Law specifies: The assessment of the expenses of the wife is decided according to the financial situation of the husband irrespective of the financial situation of the wife. This should not be below the minimum needs of the wife.

In case of polygamy, the husband should treat his wives equally. Also he should not abuse his wives physically or verbally.

After the death of her husband, a foreign Muslim wife would be entitled to 1/4 of the inheritance if there were no children. In case of polygamy, wives and no children all the wives would share the 1/4 equally.

If there are children then the wife will get 1/8 of the inheritance and in case of polygamy the wives will equally share the 1/8 of the inheritance.

Children, whether male or female, will get 7/8 of the inheritance. The male will get double the female's share. If children were only females (two daughters or more) they will equally share 2/3 of the inheritance. In case of one daughter only she gets half of the inheritance.

The foreign non-Muslim woman, enjoys the same rights in terms of her expenses as the Muslim woman, but she cannot inherit.

Article 29 of the Personal Status Law states: Inheritance does not exist between a Muslim and a non-Muslim. Only a Muslim inherits from the Muslim and the non-Muslim does not inherit from the Muslim due to the difference in religion.

Accordingly, a non-Muslim wife does not inherit from her husband after his death. Her husband also does not inherit her property due to the difference in religions.

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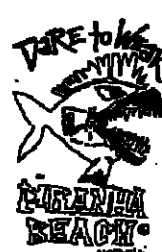
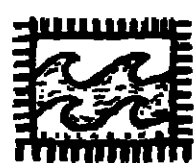
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هنا من المصالح

Divorce and child custody in Islamic Law

By Fathima Ahmed
Arab Times staff

PROPHET MOHAMMAD (PBUH) clarified that Islam does not regard divorce as "desirable". However, the religion does not regard marriage as an "indissoluble pact", according to leading Kuwaiti lawyer, Dr. Badriya Al Awadhi. Al Awadhi, in her book "The Legal Status of Women in Kuwait" (1985) writes: "Divorce in Islam serves as a safety valve, in a case where the spouse can no longer live in harmony, defeating the very purpose of marriage".

The Islamic law prescribes certain procedures for settlement of family disputes before taking the final, irrevocable step of divorce.

Surah Al Nissa (verse 12) says: "If a woman fears ill treatment from her husband, or desertion, it is no sin for them if they make (resort to) terms of amicable settlement between themselves, and such settlement is better".

Kuwaiti family law adopted the method of amicable settlement in Article 176, which stipulates: "Each spouse shall be entitled to separation in case of physical or verbal abuse, which leads to the impossibility of future cohabitation".

If the husband and wife can't work out their differences, they can seek the help of family members. "Family reconciliation" is given paramount importance. Article 128 of Kuwait's Family Law upholds this right and allows the appointment of an arbitrator (outside the family) to provide counsel.

A marriage can be annulled only in the presence of two witnesses. The witnesses should be "known for their justice and wisdom".

Al Awadhi claims that "this fundamental safeguard has not been followed thoroughly by Family Courts in many Arab courts. In Islam the right to divorce can be given to

the woman before entering into a marriage contract. This is right is specified in the marriage contract. However, the right to divorce nowadays depends on the traditions and customs of various areas. According to that man can easily divorce his wife since he has that right, but it is more difficult for a woman because she lacks that right.

Any woman who wants to get divorced has to show with evidence the reasons for such request in front of the judge, after filing a case against her husband. The woman can seek divorce for the following reasons: physical violence, materialistic negligence, sexual problems, inadequate living standards and long term abandoning. The decision of divorce is referred to the judge who keeps the decision pending for reconciliation.

When the matter of children's custody is raised, things get complicated if the man insists on custody, examples are daily experienced in courts.

In Islam, there are three types of divorce. 1. Unilateral divorce (talaq): In this case, the divorced woman is entitled to a reasonable allowance or compensation from the husband; this is known as "al-mulasa". However, Arab jurists differ on the amount and period of compensation. For example, Syria allows maintenance for three years and Jordan, one year. In Kuwait, the woman is entitled to get compensation for an year, provided the "divorce was without her consent".

In the case of divorce, all Arab states agree on some points. These include allowing divorce on the grounds of alcoholism; contagious diseases, and other incurable ailments; imprisonment of one of the spouses for three years and mutual consent of the parties.

2. Mutual divorce (khul): Islam gives the Muslim woman the right to annul an unhappy marriage. Kuwait's Family Law provides extensive, general guidelines for such divorce cases. Article 114 states: Anything which may

be suitable from the legal point of view is lawful; it might be permissible to be used for compensation in the case of resorting to this kind of divorce. In such cases, a woman may have to return her mahr (dowry) or any other possessions given to her during marriage. In "khul", a marriage can be annulled even if the woman "dislikes" her husband, giving a woman the right to divorce if a marriage is not in her interests.

3. Judicial divorce (talik): "The Mahkama school is the most liberal in this respect," says Al Awadhi. A wife is entitled to divorce on the grounds of her husband's cruelty, refusal or inability to maintain her, desertion, having a serious disease or ailment; a husband's long absence without an acceptable cause; imprisonment.

Child custody: Is a complex issue, and an emotional one. Islamic Law gives a mother the right to custody—"hadanah" of her child until a certain age. Kuwait's Family Law,

Article 194 says a mother can have custody of a male child until the age of seven and that of a female child until she is married (in most instances, at the age of 16). A woman loses custody of her child, regardless of the child's age, if she is proven to behave in an immoral way and cannot provide adequate care.

Kuwait's Family Law stipulates the conditions for granting a woman the right to custody. The conditions are: maturity, wisdom, honesty and capability to protect the child's health and moral conduct.

Kuwait's Family Law, Article 192 gives a non-Muslim the right to custody until a certain age: seven years. Article 191 states that the mother "loses the right to custody if she remarries". A father can claim custody within one year of his former wife's remarriage.

If the mother gets custody, then she is entitled to get a monthly allowance and house rent, from the state, if she does not own a home, or has not been provided with one.

Mothers at a loss in a better situation

Rate of divorce low

By Fathima Ahmed
Arab Times staff

MOST British divorcees living in Kuwait are reluctant to discuss their experiences for fear of "repercussions" and/or getting an adverse reaction from their former Arab spouses or their families.

In some cases, English girls compromise, reconcile and return to their husbands. Even if they don't return to their husbands, they prefer to stay in Kuwait so that they can be near their children.

The rate of divorce between English and Kuwaiti/Arab couples used to be relatively low. Between 1969 and 1979, there were only nine cases of divorce. This can, perhaps, be attributed to the lower number of marriages between Kuwaitis and English girls in that period.

From 1980 to 1986, 100 marriages took place between Kuwaiti men and European women. During the same period, about 97 British girls married other Arabs, mainly from Jordan, Iraq, Saudi Arabia and Palestine. In that period, a total of 32 Kuwaiti-European couples and 28 Arab-English couples divorced. It is hard to work out the percentage of Kuwaiti-English divorces because statistics were not broken down by nationality.

"Six to seven years ago, a lot more English girls got into troubled marriages and wanted out; now-a-days women are freer, and consequently, divorces are fewer," explained one person who provides a shoulder to cry on when English girls want out.

One-third But opinions vary. It is difficult for Western women who have had unhappy marriages to Arabs not to feel bitter, said one British native who married a Kuwaiti. "We give everything up to come here — our passport, our religion, our families," she stressed.

She is convinced more and more European and American women who married Kuwaitis are leaving the Gulf and sometimes their children to go back home.

"Since last summer 60 wives have left," she said. She left Kuwait when her marriage became intolerable, but when she returned to the UK she found she had no money or means to support herself or her children. She considered leaving her children with their Kuwaiti father since he could provide all their needs, but her maternal instincts and financial inability to start her life over brought her back to Kuwait.

She doesn't know how many women in Kuwait are facing a similar dilemma.

In 1987 and 1988, there were 13 Kuwaiti-English marriages and 10 divorces. About one-third of all couples seek divorce. And nearly 30 per cent of all Kuwaiti-English mixed marriages split up. Most divorced English women have left Kuwait. Many went with their children; most resist any further contact with their Kuwaiti/Arab husbands. Children in the UK are made wards of court, in other words, given protection by the law; Kuwaiti/Arab husbands get visiting rights.

Sometimes, such rights are abused like in the case of a Kuwaiti husband who visited and walked away with his three children — two boys and a girl. "He just picked up the chil-

(Source: Department of Statistics, Ministry of Planning)
Note: 1967 to 1979, statistics are by nationality.
1980/1986 — ditto...

YEAR	KUWAITI/ ENGLISH	ARABS
1967	nil	2
1968	1	2
1969	1	2
1970	3	2
1971	1	1
1972	1	2
1973	1	2
1974	3	1
1975	1	nil
1976	7	4
1977	5	8
1978	7	10
1979	5	6
1980	8	3
1986	45	53

DIVORCES

(Source: Department of Statistics, Ministry of Planning)
Note: From 1980 to 1986, marriage by nationality was not registered.

YEAR	KUWAITI/ ENGLISH	OTHER/ ARAB
1967/ 68/69	nil	nil
1970	2	"
1971	1	"
1972	1	"
1973	nil	"
1974	1	"
1975	1	(one)
1976	1	"
1977	nil	3 (Saudi)
1978	2	1 (Saudi)
1979	1	1
1980	3	nil
1986	19	5

NOTE: From 1980 to 1986, marriage by nationality was not registered.

YEAR	KUWAITI/ MEN	EUROPEAN WOMEN	ARAB
1980	13	12	
1981	12	14	
1982	15	20	
1983	18	15	
1984	20	23	
1985	12	13	
1986	100	97	

(British husband/Kuwaiti/Arab wife)
1988 one
1978 one

NOTE: From 1980 to 1986, divorce statistics were not divided by nationality but projected as European.)

YEAR	KUWAITI/ ARAB/ EUROPEAN	EUROPEAN PEAN
1980	3	nil
1981	5	6
1982	5	4
1983	nil	3
1984	5	6
1985	6	4
1986	32	28

dren, told the woman he is taking them for an outing and the next we heard of him was that he was in the States; his mother was caring for the children," said one source.

"Obviously, it had all been very carefully planned," the source added.

The mother, who had little money at that time, could not pursue her ex-husband or take steps to get custody of her children.

In another case, an English woman waited for an opportunity to get away from her husband. She went on vacation to her native Bristol, UK, taking her children with her. There, she sought divorce, and was granted custody of the children by a British court.

A few months later, her husband hired men to abduct the children — one of the kids was a boy. Although the mother had

custody of her children, she never saw them afterwards. The case made front-page news in English papers. The children are now in a Gulf state.

Many English girls who marry Arabs are quite materialistic, says one observer who wishes to remain anonymous. "Many English girls marry Arab men for their money. This is because they come from an average or poorer background. Many of them have never been out of the UK and have little knowledge about Arab culture."

"They are attracted by big homes, more money and more comfort." And, in the beginning, they don't mind sharing a home with the in-laws," the observer, who is of English origin said.

In the initial stages of their marriage, most English girls compare their happiness in terms of jewellery and other luxuries lavished on them by their husbands. After the initial euphoria wears off, the girls face a culture shock. They can't merge with close-knit Arab families.

Initially, they are pleased with help with housework and children from the mother-in-law. But soon, they want to regain their independence.

This happens in two stages. At first, they see themselves alienated from home-affairs, and losing control; second, they realise the children are withdrawing from them. Panic and discontent sets in as the English mothers try to cope with what they see as "uncalled for interference of the grandmother."

"They (Englishwomen) have a different upbringing and can't cope with the tremendous influence of the husband's family on their lives," one person explained.

They also face the problem of adjusting in an alien environment. Cultural differences become more glaring as the English girls try to cope with what they believe to be restrictions. They don't see eye to eye with their husbands; and differences begin to surface.

Many English girls are also "frightened of their husbands." English girls are "intimidated when physical violence is involved."

A person who has been in touch with English girls seeking divorce said the "girls are afraid of physical violence and are terrified of losing their children, particularly if there is a boy in the family."

English women are not obliged to register their marriages at the British embassy in Kuwait. And as such, there are no records of the number of marriages or divorces at the embassy.

The embassy is seen as the "last resort" by many women who come more to "talk to someone" rather than get advice.

The embassy plays an advisory role. "Most women who seek our help come for a shoulder to cry on; someone to talk things over; and because this is such an emotional issue, most don't want to listen to advice," said a British diplomat.

The advice diplomats can offer is limited. "We cannot intervene in what is essentially a family affair. We offer advice based on our understanding of the Kuwaiti law and British law."

Often, women seek help when they feel isolated and emotionally distraught. The embassy's role is to provide a "more dispassionate view of the law, of the women's situation and guide them to seek legal help in Kuwait."



Break-up rate quite high

Divorces are not heavenly

By Lima Al Khalafawi
Arab Times staff

MARRIAGES between Kuwaiti men and Egyptian women are quite common, but conversely the rate of divorce is also high. Statistics, provided by the Ministry of Planning in Kuwait, show that in 1988 there were 81 inter-marriages between Egyptian women and Kuwaiti men, but correspondingly there were also 58 cases of divorce.

The largest number of divorce cases are among Egyptian women, who reside in Cairo with their Kuwaiti children. Such cases result from inadequate knowledge of the personal history and traditions of their partners. The financial motivation of the more humble woman and age difference also plays an important part, the Egyptian Consul-General to Kuwait, El Said S. Sultan, says.

Such divorces are even more poignant when children are involved. Custody of the children has raised an important and controversial issue for both partners, Sultan said. He added that although there are many divorce cases among Kuwaiti men and Egyptian women, there exist a large number of successful marriages.

According to the Egyptian legal consultant in Kuwait, Hussain Mansi, for all Muslims, the law is applicable to all divorce cases. This applies regardless of the nationality, religion and the sect of the wife. The Personal Status Law is part of the Civil Law. The Kuwaiti Civil Law originates from the Islamic Sharia'a.

According to a Kuwaiti lawyer, the mother gets custody of children provided she does not marry again. If she does, then she loses the right to custody, and the grandmother on the maternal side becomes the legal guardian.

According to the Kuwaiti

Personal Status Law, the girl remains in custody of the mother until she is married and the boy until the age of puberty. For Shia'a, of the Ja'fari sect, this is reduced to the age of nine years and seven years respectively.

The Kuwait Planning Ministry's statistics (tabulated below) show the number of marriages and divorces between Kuwaiti men and Egyptian women:

Year	Marriages	Divorce cases
1967	23	33
1968	20	37
1969	32	58
1970	33	57
1971	27	65
1972	51	77
1973	294	103
1974	101	121
1975	181	153
1976	227	168
1977	198	154
1978	183	125
1979	170	107

From 1980 to 1986 statistics were suspended. The official of the ministry, H. Ziedan, declined to comment on the reason. He said that other available statistics for the same period between Kuwaiti men and Arab women (including Egyptian women) were stated as:

1987	98	75
1988	81	58

In any marriage, divorce is a traumatic experience for all parties involved, and is a measure resorted to when all other avenues to bring about a rapprochement have proved to be an "exercise in futility."

To highlight the anomalies resulting in divorce between Kuwaiti men and Egyptian women and vice-versa, the Arab Times conducted interviews with a cross-section of couples who have encountered this experience.

"After 24 years of marriage,

the wife is still treated as an alien," said an Egyptian wife who is married to a Kuwaiti. The mother of three grown-up daughters (two work and the third is still at university) added that her life was not a honeymoon as people think. On the contrary she was miserable as she lives with her in-laws in the same house.

She moved to Kuwait, after her husband finished his studies in Egypt.

"The loving and caring man turned to be a monster who beats me in front of my daughters," she said. However, in the interests of her daughters, she preferred to keep silent and bear many insults. But that was not the whole story about her life. She also discovered that her husband is a womaniser, who had rented another flat for his mistress. She did not argue about that for the sake of her daughters but one day her husband surprised her by introducing his new wife to her and her daughters. Thus, she said she was left in the house with her grumpy in-laws who nagged her all the time.

She insisted on divorce but her husband refused. The only alternative was to file a case against her husband asking for divorce, she said.

She is planning to live with her daughters in a small apartment. They can now afford a decent life for her and themselves. The woman admitted that nationality has nothing to do with married life. Intentions and good manners are paramount guarantees for a long happy life.

Her husband was not available for comment.

Another Egyptian, mother of two children, said she was married to her husband (Kuwaiti) in Egypt. Her problems started when they came to Kuwait and she was locked inside the house.

She added that her husband

did not allow her to visit her family in Egypt. He turned out to be very strict and forced her to be totally covered (Mouhaja). He spent most of his time in diwanias, neglecting her and her children. The woman, who missed her home country, wanted to settle there with her children. She failed to convince her husband to permit her to travel with them. Her husband insisted on her travelling alone without the children. She said that her husband had changed completely and become a very possessive individual.

"All the Arab men give themselves the right to travel any time and anywhere but using traditions and religion as pretext say that it is against the society's common belief that women should be allowed to travel alone. They feel free to do anything they want but do not give their wives, the same right," she concluded.

Her husband, in a separate interview, denied his wife's allegations. He insisted that every woman should obey her husband in everything without arguing. "It is against traditions that an Arab woman travel unaccompanied by her husband or brother," he headed.

A lawyer said many divorce cases take place because of sodomy. Such reasons are not publicly mentioned but many wives do reveal that to their lawyer. Claims of sodomy if accompanied by a medical certificate are sufficient grounds for divorce.

The lawyer said that now he is working on a very difficult case in proving the status of a woman (Egyptian) with her husband (Kuwaiti) who had divorced her three times but keeps denying it. Her husband still lives with her in the same house. The woman, who sought legal advice from him for divorce and custody of her sons, is not planning to marry again.

The lawyer said that many divorces result from mistreatment by the man of his wife. No woman in the Arab world, seeking divorce, likes a finger pointed at her as a divorced woman. Divorce takes place when problems accumulate and no solution is reached.

"The man who takes two wives at the same time is absolutely unfair. This is due to the fact that he can not psychologically love them both at the same time, irrespective of the equal financial treatment. In these marriages, among Kuwaitis and Egyptian women, no abduction cases of children have taken place.

However, some marriages are successful and couples live in bliss.

An Egyptian housewife and mother of three daughters and two sons said that she has been married to her Kuwaiti husband for more than 26 years.

"We have lived all these years together. We overcame many problems that can occur between any married couple. Arab traditions and habits are similar between Kuwait and Egypt. Sometimes the woman has to pretend to be blind of deaf to end any problem between her husband and her," she said.

She added that the honeymoon does not last for ever but partners can go on living happily if faithful intentions exist.

A Kuwaiti husband, M. Suliman, said every marriage has ups and downs even if both couples are of the same nationality. In case of a conflict both husband and wife should avoid speaking to each other while hysterical. He called this a "cooling off" period. He added that nationality is not an obstacle. It is how the spouses interact and develop a long living relationship in any successive marriage, that matters.

To be continued tomorrow

EX-110150

'Writing was never an ambition'

By Fathima Ahmed
Arab Times staff

OFF the record, Kuwaiti Fuad Al Hashem, the journalist, stopped writing last year. Al Hashem, the writer, is now compiling two books, one takes an inside look at journalism in Kuwait and the other deals with "off-the-record" discussions with some world statesmen like late Pakistani president Zia-ul-Haq.

BY chance, Fuad Al Hashem became a writer. By accident, he stopped writing. By design, he is authoring two Arabic books, which he hopes to publish by the end of the year. By choice, he was instrumental in forming a volunteers society to educate people about organ transplants. By necessity, he has opted for business to keep the home fires burning.

He was named Fuad by his parents because he was born four days after the birth of Egyptian crown prince Ahmad Fuad in 1952. "It was an alien name at that time," he says. "Those days, parents associated the birth of a child with an event — 'like it rained heavily' or 'royalty was born'," he explained.

He became Ahmad Fuad's namesake. And like all children, he wanted to make mischief, but he couldn't. If he played truant, he got a smack on the back by his "strict father," who kept him in line.

"I was nice not because I wanted to be but because I wanted to avoid being spanked," he says. If he had been allowed to express himself freely in childhood, he might have grown up to be a less temperamental adult, he says.

"I get angry, very angry, quickly, and I calm down just as quickly."

Some of the simmering fury is reflected in his writing. He wrote his first article in a fit of fury after arriving from the US to Kuwait in early 1980s. He studied mass communications. He saw life in his country had changed, particularly some aspects and needed to be written down. He dashed it off to the Kuwait University magazine.

At that time, he was studying law.

Like all novices, he waited impatiently for his article to appear in the magazine. He scanned each page of the magazine every week. Two weeks later, he gave up. "I thought the editor



Fuad Al Hashem

had rejected my article," he said. When it was eventually published, it created a stir in Kuwait University, which set up an enquiry.

What was the topic? "Tough," he replied.

Within two weeks after the article was published, he was up for grabs. Three Arabic dailies sent him job offers. He became a columnist, writing on everything from politics to social ills. His column was called Amazing

Facts. He was read widely, both by those who appreciated and hated his gifts.

He doesn't believe in conforming to established norms.

And like a naughty child, he was admonished after the second most important article in his life was published last year. This time, he had gone too far in his critical appraisal: he had hit out at a friendly state. Like an obedient son, he put down his "weapons" — pen, paper, and

cassette recorder. But he could not stop writing.

He is now working on two books. The first, as yet untitled, examines Kuwait's newspaper industry from a journalist's point of view.

The second, which he hopes to complete by November, is tentatively titled "After the Interview Ended," reliving memories of interviews with prominent world leaders, both Arab and non-Arab.

Writing was never an ambition with the young Fuad, who as a child, was obsessed with the idea of becoming a fighter pilot. "I wanted to be an air force pilot," every Eid I asked my father to make an air force uniform for me," he recalls.

Soon, he knew he could not become a pilot. "I was zero in maths." This fault prompted him to look for easier pastures and he took up Islamic studies. After four years, he decided he was not cut out to be a theocrat.

"I was one of the 10 best students; my teachers expected me to go to Saudi Arabia to continue Islamic studies, but I just could not," he recalls.

He was a restless soul. He opted for mass communications. After four years in the US, he shifted to law.

None of the subjects he studied sustained his interest. After trying everything, he settled for writing. "The only thing I am good at," he says.

He takes time off to volunteer his services for a good cause: create awareness about organ transplant surgery.

Fuad is a director of the Kuwait Organ Transplant Society, formed four years ago by a group of six Kuwaitis, who were concerned about lack of awareness about organ transplant.

As a director of the society, Fuad acts as a "link between the doctor and patient." Donors are encouraged to register at the society. So far, about 600 have become members.

"Organ donation is an emotional and sensitive issue; it's a matter of changing attitudes," he explained.

Fuad, who talks to the relatives of accident victims, argues "It's not fair to let all of him die; let a part of him survive (through transplantation)." But it's not easy to convince distraught relatives.

"We work from a humanitarian point of view," he says. He feels the efforts of the society are a drop in the ocean. "It's an unfair race to fight kidney failure," he said.

He juggles his time between his volunteer work, writing and business. As a child he set up a mini-library to earn extra pocket money by loaning children's magazines to other kids in the neighbourhood. "I learnt the basics of business at that time," he says.

He also made time to read history, religion and philosophy to build a storehouse of knowledge. "If I read a thousand pages, I can squeeze 100 words for my articles," he says. Now, he is waiting for the moment when he'll go back to journalism. "I don't know how and when, but I will, someday," he says.

TELEVISION PROGRAMMES

KTV 1

MORNING PERIOD

- 9.30 Opening and Holy Quran
- 9.40 Sabah Al Kher, news and variety
- 10.00 Cartoon serial
- 10.15 Magazine D'Actualite (repetition)
- 10.30 Hawer Zaver: Local serial (part 4)
- 11.30 Sabah Al Kher, news and variety
- 11.40 Taaleel: Bedouin serial, starring Waleed Barakat, Salwa Saeed, Anwar Khaleel, and Sameera Al Khouri
- 12.30 News Summary
- 12.35 Sabah Al Kher News
- 12.37 Holy Quran and Closedown

Evening period

- 4.00 Opening and Holy Quran
- 4.15 The World Today via Satellite (repetition)
- 4.45 Beroon: Cartoon serial
- 5.15 You and Your Health: Local programme, prepared by Ghazi Al Khayat and Presented by Rashid Al Owaish
- 5.35 We are your Friends: Local programme
- 5.45 Night chemists, airlines and official advertisements
- 6.00 Al Islam Hadhara: religious programme (part 31)
- 7.15 Sports Star: Sports programme, prepared and presented by Mutlaq Sarhan
- 7.55 Made in Kuwait: Information programme, prepared and presented by Dr Ali Al Damkhi
- 8.30 Good Evening and local news
- 9.00 News in Arabic
- 9.45 Al Manzel Al Khafi:

NIGHT CHEMIST

Kuwait
Baghdad Pharmacy
Abdullah Al Salem Street
Al Amal Pharmacy
Mubarak Al Kabser Street
Hawalli and Nagra
Hawalli Pharmacy
Tunis Street
Salahiyah and Rumaithiya
Al Markaziya Pharmacy
Amro Bin Al As Street
Fahad Al Hashem (ad to not)
Sadaf Pharmacy
Makkah Street
Khalifa
Al Tasmah Pharmacy
Ebin Sireen Street
Jahra
Al Khaleel Pharmacy
Opposite to the Co-op.
Society

Arabic serial (part 2)
10.35 A variety late night show with guest star Majeda Al Roumi (part 2), presented by Dawlat Shawqi
11.45 News Summary
11.50 The World Today via Satellite
12.15 Holy Quran and Closedown

KTV 2

- 6.00 Opening announcement & Holy Quran
- 6.10 Diplodoc. A cartoon series for children
- 6.30 Electronic Office. The innovation of a computerized telephone which facilitates communications with foreign countries
- 7.00 Watch All Night "On the Brink." The doctor's girlfriend is kidnapped by agents of a foreign embassy. She is questioned about the file.
- 7.30 Fishing The West. "Chandeur Redfish." A look at fishing methods on the Gulf of Mexico where Redfish are found in abundance in salty waters.

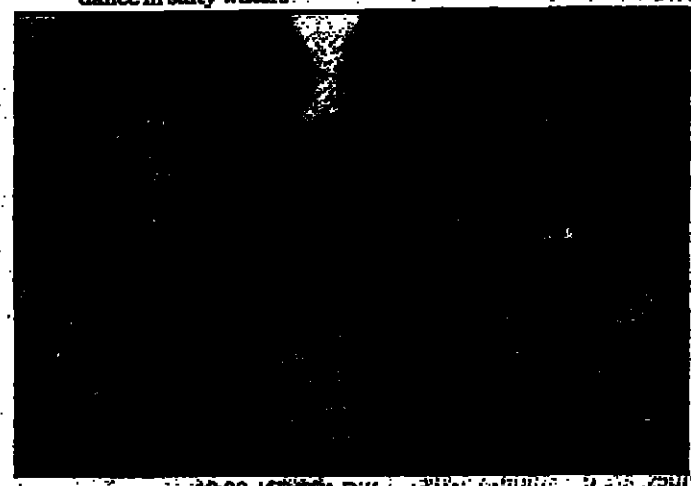
8.00 News in English
8.30 You and the Law
8.45 The Twilight Zone. "The Toys of Kalarau." An old man is suffering because of his young child who can get whatever he may desire.

9.30 The Great Space Age. "The Earth Below." The development of space technologies in the fields of communications and roles played by improved satellites in the field of applying technology and information.

10.00 A Different World. Jessy Jackson's arrival has great effect on "Downen's" attitude towards student elections.

10.30 Murphy's Law. "Doing the Hard Way." Kathlene spends the weekend with her father, Murphy and his girlfriend. Dispute arises between Murphy and his girlfriend and Kathlene decides to quit!

11.30 News in Brief
11.45 Magazines D'Actualite.



CINEMA TODAY

Al Andalus
Arabic film
Salahiyah
Hall booked
Al Hamra
Arabic film
Drive-in
Arabic film
Fahad Al Hashem (ad to not)
Sadaf Pharmacy
Makkah Street
Khalifa
Al Tasmah Pharmacy
Ebin Sireen Street
Jahra
Al Khaleel Pharmacy
Opposite to the Co-op.
Society

Granada
Witness
Sulaiman
Sunset Strip
Jeeb
Eka Tuka Aasha
Almadi Drive-in
Arabic film
Fahad Al Hashem (ad to not)
Sadaf Pharmacy
Makkah Street
Khalifa
Al Tasmah Pharmacy
Ebin Sireen Street
Jahra
Al Khaleel Pharmacy
Opposite to the Co-op.
Society

WHAT'S ON

ARTS

Seminar
THERE will be a seminar at the DAA on "Arabic & European Art in the Light of Zodiocal Symbolism" December 10, 1989 - January 10, 1990. Sunday and Tuesday 11.00 - 12.30 am. Anyone wishing to register for this seminar may do so at the DAA during museum hours.

Art exhibition
A SOLO art exhibition of Bangladeshi artist Rantu Acharyje will be opened on Dec 16, at 9.00 am at the Bangladesh embassy auditorium. The exhibition will continue till Dec 21.

SOCIAL

Adnan Butti
PAKISTAN Arts Circle will present Adnan Butti on Friday, December 15, at 8.30 pm. Adnan Butti will sing his best Punjabi songs, ghazals and gets.

Zahid Saeed Khan, the ambassador of Pakistan will preside over the function. Riad Mahsar, will be the chief guest. Invitation cards are available at the Pakistan embassy counter or with the public relations secretary (Tel. 4716258), Hamid Mahmood, Kamal Azhar (Tel. 5323692), Farooq (5717585) or Suhail Butti (Tel. 3919720).

Bangladesh flag hoisting
A FLAG-HOISTING ceremony will be held on Dec 16, Saturday at 9.00 am to observe the Victory Day of Bangladesh. The ceremony will be held at the Bangladesh embassy premises: House No. 3, Block 1, Street 14, Khaldiya. For ticket reservations contact 5384873 or 5382551.

Konkani Drama

THE New Goans Overseas Association are pleased to announce Menino De Bandar's "Soumarant Astana Diat" a Konkani play which will be held in the Indian Arts Circle (Funaites) on the 16th of February 1990. The cast all from Goa includes M. Boyer, C. D'Silva, Betty Naz, Junior Rod, Rosario Dias. Plans open in early January.

Southerners
DEC 22: Southerners invite their members and guests to celebrate X-mas family get-together at the Ramada Al Salam Hotel (the new Al Mirage Ballroom) on the 16th of February 1990. The cast all from Goa includes M. Boyer, C. D'Silva, Betty Naz, Junior Rod, Rosario Dias. Plans open in early January.

KOSA meeting
KOSA Annual General Meeting — 17 December 7.30 pm Shaab Marina. All members should attend to elect the 1990 committee. For further details please call the KOSA Secretary Decian Maanion on 2452880.

MUSIC Night
MUSIC Night at "The Lonesome Traveller." A musical evening in a cafe atmosphere featuring performers from the Kuwait Folk Group performing British traditional music, folk, pop and country songs. The evening is being produced by ACT and will provide you with a unique night out. It is being held December 17th at 8.00 pm at the Holiday Inn. For more details, call 5620332 from 5.00 to 7.00 pm.

Victory Day flag hoisting
A flag-hoisting ceremony will be held on Dec 16, Saturday at 9.00 am to observe the Victory Day of Bangladesh. The ceremony will be held at the Bangladesh Embassy premises: House No. 3, Block 1, Street 14, Khaldiya. All Bangladeshis are requested to attend.

NRI General Body Meeting

NRI Investors Forum holding annual G.B. meeting at Indian embassy on December 15 at 11.00 am. Investment speakers specially invited from India. Also presentation of NRI of the Year trophy. Followed by complimentary lunch for members.

Kuwait Little Theatre
KUWAIT Little Theatre, Ahmad, proudly present their traditional pantomime extravaganza — Sinbad the Sailor. Tickets are now on sale for the following performances: Evening performances on 6th and 13th Dec at 7 pm, Matinee performances on 7th, 8th, 14th and 15th Dec at 2 and 5 pm. Ring 3919759 now to avoid disappointment.

Star Nite
DEC 21: Thursday Christmas dinner social at Ramada Al Salam Le Mirage Ballroom from 9 pm with Stepping Stones music. Variety entertainment and prizes galore for lucky 5 5 5 promotion and X-mas Hamper draws with sumptuous buffet at mid-night. Children's programme commences at 6 to 8.30 pm with Fancy Dress Competition. For reservations please contact Vincent Tel. 2413706, James 331940 also at Shop No. 34 A.M. Ex-New Super Market Kuwait.

Pongal celebrations
BHARATHI Kalai Mandram is organising Pongal Celebrations on 29th December in the Indian Arts Circle auditorium with a variety of entertainments for children and adults from 5 to 8.30 pm. All are welcome. For details and entry passes please contact 3716976, 3718935, 5631230 or 5627718.

Saez Aur Aawaz
FEB 2: Saez Aur Aawaz, one of the leading Indian musical groups of Kuwait present their fourth musical programme entitled Bhule Bise Geet. The show includes Hindi film songs at the Indian Arts Circle. Funaites on February 2, 1990. Passes will be available shortly.

Kuwait Cultural Centre

NEW courses at the cultural centre: yoga healing classes, two sessions in the evenings on Tuesdays and Thursdays; jujitsu (martial arts), Saturday and Mondays, pm; Chinese cooking classes, Saturdays, 9-11 am. For details call 5624393.

X-mas tree
DEC 15: Flying Arrows Sporting Centre once again invites their members and guests to their annual X-mas tree function, to be held at the Carlton Tower Hotel from 11.30am onwards. Assumptious buffet, gifts galore, exciting games and live music by the "Neighbuzz" awaits one and all. Added attraction, Leo the Magician is to perform at 12.00pm sharp.

Variety Show
UPKAAR is a newly formed non-profit cultural group of Hindi/Urdu speaking expatriates in Kuwait. Upkaar, whose aim is to promote art, culture and literature is going to hold an inaugural variety entertainment programme at Al Sharq Co-operative Auditorium comprising of dances, dramas, musical items and pantomimes on December 15 at 6.00 pm. This will be followed by a buffet dinner. Interested persons may contact 4880965 or 2615515.

United Goans Centre
SANTA Claus is coming to town on December 15 at the Al Salam Hotel in the Al Deira Hall exactly at 9.30 am, with loads of gifts and sweets for all your children. Make your presence at the United Goans Centre's X-mas party. A unique fancy dress parade for children and lots of surprises awaits the young and the old. Lively music from the "Next of Kin." For further information contact Tony 2612024 or Moses 2424293.

IAC Children's Competition
THE dates of finals of the Children's Competition will take place at IAC Funaites on 13th, 14th, 15th, 27th and 28th December '89 and 18th January '90 respectively. For more details contact Indian Schools.

X'mas tree '89

CHRISTMAS is for children, and what better way than to celebrate it with the New Goans Overseas Association at the Ramada Al Salam Hotel (the new Al-Mirage Ballroom) on the 15th of December 1989. Highlights include 'carol singing competition' (4 local schools participating) games for children, novelty dance and music by the Stepping Stones. Santa Claus will be distributing gifts to all the kids. For reservations contact Anthony on tel: 5621968 (after 6.00 pm) or Julio.

Kuwait Goans
DEC 15: Annual children's X-mas tree function will be held at the Messiah Beach Hotel on Friday, Dec 15, '89 from 9.30 am onwards. Lots of prizes and surprises await for one and all. The Rank in attendance. Crib competition will be judged by Santa Claus specially flown from London.

AWL Annual Bazaar
THURSDAY December 14, 9.00 am - 6.00 pm: Beautiful handmade items will be on sale at the Regency Palace Hotel. Ideal for Christmas shopping.

British council
Yogi's first Christmas
Wednesday, 13 December at 6.00 pm; Thursday, 14 December at 10.30 am. 99 min.
Yogi and his little pal, Boo-Hoo, are usually hibernating during the Christmas season at Jellystone Lodge. But this year, they are awakened when Yogi's special friends gather together to help him celebrate his first Christmas. This is a happy event that you will remember for years to come.

Study in Britain
ARE you interested in studying AUTOMOBILE or AERONAUTICAL ENGINEERING in Britain?
If you are then come and visit the British Council Education Office on 16 & 17 December, for information and advice about the many different courses that are available.

Kalpak's drama competition

Kerala Arts and Literature Promoting Association of Kuwait (Kalpak) is organising a Malayalam drama competition on 8th and 9th of February 1990.

One act plays of 40 minutes duration will only be considered for the competition. Prizes will be awarded for best drama, best script (only for amateur creations from Kuwait) best direction. Stage setting, best actor (Prem Nazir award) best actress & best child artist, from the selected entries. Interested parties may send their applications along with a copy of the script to Varghese Paradayil, P.O. Box 47, 13001 Safat Kuwait.

For more details pls contact Varghese 5635481, Kurien 5658072 or Balakrishnan 4316737.

People's Trust Club

DEC 29: People's Trust Club welcomes you to a day of your life at Ramada Al Salam (Marriott) Hotel, New Ballroom from 10.30 am onwards. Nimble feet, hungry palate, perfect blend of music and style. A get-together with buffet. Featuring Stepping Stones, Top Ranks, Perfect Strangers. There will be novelties and surprises galore.

Vishal Musical Group
VISHAL Musical Group is conducting their 2nd musical programme on Friday, January 5 at 6.00 pm at Funaites Indian Arts Circle. The programme contains the most popular old and new hit songs from Hindi films. Also classical and fast dances by young talented artists. Centres for distribution of passes will be announced shortly.

Punjabi Adabi

THE monthly meeting of Punjabi Adabi Sangat will be held on Dec 14, Thursday at 8.00 pm at the residence of Jagdish Singh Arora in Abbasiya. Kidar Nath Kidar and Gurbakash Singh Dogra will present their short story and poem respectively for criticism. Before recitation of poetry by the participating poets an introduction of renowned Punjabi poet Piar Singh Sehrai's new book will be presented by Jasbir Singh Dhiwan.

Kapilku's X'mas
THE Kapisanang Pilipino sa Kuwait/The Association of Filipinos in Kuwait (Kapilku) will celebrate the festive season in Kuwait with the main purpose to share the spirit of Christmas and New Year in a more harmonious relationship with its members, on December 29, 1989.

The Filipino Song Festival, an amateur singing contest which is open to all Filipinos, will be one of the many programmes to be staged. Valuable prizes await the winners and top five best singers will also receive trophies. All the candidates of the just concluded Hiyas ng Pilipinas — Kuwait '89 will show their beautiful gowns. The top three best gowns will receive trophies and valuable prizes from sponsors.

The Barong Tagalog fashion show open to all Filipino males will be an added attraction to the celebration of the festive season. All interested participants who wish to join the song festival, fashion shows for Barong Tagalog for men and gowns for ladies can contact V. P. Sarah on Tel. 4834447.

Deadline for submission of entries is December 22.

zantine, from 3-6 pm, Monday December 18, 1989. For further information please phone Ann at 5316905.

SPORTS

Exhibition cricket match

ON occasion of the Victory Day of Bangladesh, an exhibition cricket match will be played between the Brothers Club (red) and the Brothers (green) at the EPI cricket grounds on Friday, December 15. The match will start at 9.00 am. Other attractions include food stalls. All Bangladeshis are cordially invited. For food coupons contact Kamal Tel. 4312949.

AHMADI Kart Race
MEETING commences 1.30 pm Friday and includes a ladies' race. All are welcome. Entrance 500 fils only. Try out the new Rentakart full blown racing kart. IAC table tennis
THE IAC table tennis tournament from Dec 29 till Jan 5. All members, their families and guests interested in participating please call IAC (Tel. 3904817) after 7 pm, or Jagdish at Tel. 2643552, or Sharma at Tel. 2644863 for entry passes and details.

Football Tournament
PEOPLE'S Trust Club tie-breaker football tournament for all Indian teams to commemorate Jawaharlal Nehru Centenary Year on 15th Dec. on Sour Ground at 8.30 am. Contact Dominic Rodrigues and Camilo.

Victory day cricket match
TO mark the Victory Day of Bangladesh an exhibition cricket match will be organised by Brothers Sporting Club on Friday Dec 15 in EPI ground in Sulaimkhat. All Bangladeshis interested to participate in the game are requested to appear in EPI ground on Dec 7 at 3pm for trial match. Besides the cricket match other attractions are stalls for Bangladeshi food and a lucky draw. Please contact Tel. 4312730, 3720932 or 4312949.

BUSINESS & FINANCE

Bank of Tokyo chief meets Khorafi, Sheikh Salem

Japanese economy continues to grow faster

By M.C. Bose
Business editor

CHAIRMAN of the board of directors of the Bank of Tokyo, Yusuke Kashiwagi visited Kuwait for two days and delivered a lecture on current topics on world and Japanese economies. The lecture, arranged by the Kuwait Forum, was held at the Kuwait International Hotel on Monday.

Kashiwagi shed light on the prospects of the world economy in particular and what Japanese economy can contribute to the world economy in 1990. He said that the Japanese economy continued to grow faster than the world economy in the past few years. He also tackled issues relating to the stability of the foreign exchange rates. He said "the US dollar has been overvalued whereas the Japanese yen was undervalued in which some adjustments were needed to maintain stability."

The chairman told the Arab Times in an exclusive interview that the main purpose of his visit was to meet some important business leaders and financial experts in Kuwait to exchange views on world economic developments particularly the monetary situation.

Kashiwagi said: "I believe that there is a possibility to strengthen economic and trade relations between Kuwait and Japan. The Kuwaiti businessmen took keen interest in Tokyo's stock market."

During his stay in Kuwait Kashiwagi met with Jassim Al Khorafi, Minister of Finance, Sheikh Salem Abdul Aziz Al Sabah, Governor of the Central Bank and Abdulatif Al Hamad, director general of the Arab Fund for Economic and Social



Some of those who attended.

Development.

Kashiwagi was born in 1917 and graduated from the faculty of law at the Tokyo Imperial University in 1941. He served at the Finance Ministry in various posts till 1958, when he was sent to Washington as a financial secretary. He returned to Japan in 1961 and was promoted in 1968 to the position of vice minister for finance. In 1973, he joined the Bank of Tokyo and was elected deputy

president. He became president in 1977 and chairman of the board of directors in 1982. He was recently awarded the First Class Order of the Sacred Treasure by Emperor Akihito, the first Japanese banker ever to receive such an award.

The meeting was attended by the top executives of local banks and financial institutions.

Central banks demonstrated their resolve to stem inflationary pressures

by raising short-term interest rates when required. Foreign exchange markets were relatively quiet compared with the previous term, as the growth of the US current account and budgetary deficits showed signs of slowing.

The Bank of Tokyo maintained its position as Japan's leading international banking institution in 1988. The bank expanded its operations and network and actively par-



Yusuke Kashiwagi addresses the meeting.

ticipated in the deliberations on such critical issues as LDC debt and financial system reform.

The bank also achieved particularly strong growth in interest income from loans and from its business. Consequently, the Group's consolidated total income grew 30.1 per cent, to ¥1,827.3 billion. Net income amounted to ¥60.7 billion, a gain of 28.3 per cent over fiscal 1987. Total cash dividends of the parent

company were set at ¥7.50 per share.

In March 1989, Japan's Ministry of Finance authorised an increase in the ceiling on provisions for possible loan losses to heavily indebted countries from 10 per cent to 15 per cent, the second such increase in as many years. While welcoming this move, the chairman said the bank will continue to press for an increase in Japan's ceiling on tax-free reserves for problem sovereign loans, which currently stands at only 1 per cent. The Bank of Tokyo reaffirmed its commitment to offering comprehensive financial services world-wide.

The Bank of Tokyo was also an influential force in continental European capital markets during the term. Bank of Tokyo (Deutschland) AG (BOTD) was the top Japanese underwriter in the Federal Republic of Germany, lead managing 4 Euro Deutsche mark bond issues, co-lead managing 4 Euro Deutsche mark bond issues and co-managing an additional 26 Euro Deutsche mark bond issues. BOTD, which has well-established trading relations with international investors, is regarded as one of the most active market makers in German bonds and equities. For the German capital market, BOTD offers a full range of services, including cash trading, futures, OTC options, swaps, fund management, bond lending and custodial services. BOTD is the only Japanese member of the Deutsche Terminbörse.

In Switzerland, the Bank of Tokyo (Switzerland) Ltd. (BOTSW) was the leading Japanese underwriter for Japanese government-guaranteed Swiss franc bonds. Beginning with a Sfr200 million issue for the Japan

Development Bank, BOTSW acted as co-lead manager for issues by the Japan Finance Corporation for Municipal Enterprises, the city of Kobe and the city of Yokohama. As a market maker in the secondary market, BOTSW was also very active on the Reuters screen in non-government straight private placements issued by Japanese entities.

The Bank of Tokyo is always ready to serve a wide range of customers with various kinds of foreign exchange services. We remain Tokyo's top foreign exchange bank in both yen and non-yen transactions and have maintained our leading position in interbank direct dealings. During the term, we further enhanced our round the clock trading services, making fuller use of our offices in London, New York and other cities in our global network and providing early morning and evening services in Tokyo. In addition to conventional foreign exchange transactions, we are also pioneering more advanced instruments, such as options, currency swaps and medium- and long-term forwards, and continuing to develop new products in response to emerging client needs.

Swaps and Related Products. The Tokyo swap market grew increasingly sophisticated in fiscal 1988. Augmenting constant growth in the volume of yen swaps, such option-related instruments as yen swaps, interest rate caps and floors were introduced and have enjoyed great popularity. The commencement of financial futures trading in June 1989 is expected to provide further market liquidity.

(To be continued)

S. Korea to freeze salaries

SEOUL, South Korea, Dec 11. (AP) The South Korean cabinet announced today that salaries of ranking government officials and military generals will be frozen next year at present levels to set an example for industrial workers.

In an emergency session, the cabinet also decided to set up a committee designed to tide over a possible "economic crisis" the cabinet warned the country would face next year if industrial peace is wrecked by serious labour disputes and excessive wage hike demands, officials said.

The emergency steps followed repeated warnings from the government, economic organisations and business corporations that the troubled Korean economy may collapse in the New Year unless there is an end to labour disputes and steep wages hikes.

Deputy Prime Minister Cho Soon said after the meeting that the Korean economy's growth rate might fall to 5 per cent next year if labour disputes are allowed to worsen. Cho also is economic planning minister.

The government expects the economy to grow 6.5 per cent this year, far down from 12.2 per cent growth last year.

Many Korean workers, encouraged by the nation's recent political democratisation and more freedom in union activities, are demanding higher wages and more benefits, sometimes through violent strikes.

Labour unions had no immediate reaction to today's announcements, but some observers doubted that workers would go along with the government's wage control policy.

Korean exports, the prime engine of the Korean economy, have been sluggish this year, allegedly because of reduced price competitiveness under the impact of about 50 per cent wage hikes and 25 per cent appreciation of the Korean currency, the won, against the dollar in the past few years.

The officials said that low-grade government employees, whose incomes are limited, will not be affected by the proposed salary freeze but will be given some wage hikes in the New Year.

Gas field development under review

NICOSIA, Cyprus, Dec 11. (AP) Iran is discussing plans for the development of two major gas fields in the Gulf with a consortium of foreign companies, the Middle East Economic Survey reported today.

The newsletter quoted Oil Minister Gholamreza Aghazadeh as saying in an interview the gas is in the Pars field south of the port of Bushehr and in Iran's share of the North field off Qatar.

The report noted that Iran claims, on the basis of seismic survey data, that some 30 per cent of the North gas field structure lies on the Iranian side of the offshore demarcation line between the two countries. The field is estimated to contain proven recoverable gas reserves of 150 trillion cubic feet.

The Nicosia-based weekly newsletter reported that gas from these fields could be channelled by pipeline directly to Iran's Shuq Kangan-Nar gas processing plant which is nearing completion on the Iranian coast about 65 miles (100 kilometres) north of the North field.

"We feel that from 1995 onwards gas will be playing an extremely important role in the world energy picture, and we are working very hard on efforts to develop our gas reserves," Aghazadeh told the newsletter.

He said Iran was discussing plans for development of the two fields with a consortium of foreign companies, but did not identify the companies.

The newsletter said it understood from other sources that the Iranians were proposing to foreign firms that Iran pay for the development and investment out of future gas and gas liquids output.

Iran reported last month that gas was found in an exploration field in the Caspian Sea which it is drilling in co-operation with the Soviet Union.

The Iranians have said they are seeking foreign help to develop their oil and gas sector as well as rebuild other parts of the economy, which was devastated by the eight-year Gulf war.

Al Hamad opens investment seminar

AMF to expand inter-Arab trade

KUWAIT, Dec 11. (Kuna): The board chairman and managing director of the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development (Afesd) Abdulatif Al Hamad yesterday inaugurated a seminar on investment policies in the Arab countries.

The seminar, which will last till Dec 13, is organized by Afesd, the Arab Monetary Fund, the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank.

Board chairman of the Arab Monetary Fund (AMF) Osama Al Fakih called in a speech before the conferees for providing the appropriate and healthy climate for investments in the Arab countries.

He also called for removal of all barriers before foreign investments in the Arab countries in addition to launching economic reforms and expanding the existing financial markets in order to attract Arab and foreign capitals.

Al Fakih encouraged the economic co-operation among the

Arab states as well as exploitation of the modern technology to improve Arab productivity.

Finally he said AMF is determined to assist the Arab countries to upgrade their money markets so as to be more capable of attracting local and foreign capital.

Al Fakih has said that the AMF-sponsored programme to finance Arab trade will benefit all exporters and importers in all Arab countries qualified to receive financing, in line with this programme.

In an interview, with Kuna, Al Fakih noted that the programme aims at enhancing trade among Arab states and also strengthening the competitiveness of Arab resources.

Al Fakih, who is currently in Kuwait attending a seminar on investment policies in the Arab countries, indicated that the sum of financing granted to any country is determined by a special committee.

He said that the programme

management committee lays down the basis on how much each country benefits from the programme's resources, taking into consideration the country's contribution to the programme's capital and the volume of its trade.

The programme offers financial facilities for Arab trade exchanges with terms set by the committee, which follows common international practices in the field of trade financing.

The AMF chief said that when basis of this programme was set, the fund was keen to provide an appropriate framework to gather the needed resources to finance inter-Arab trade. A capital of \$500 million has been set for the programme.

The Governor of Central Bank of Kuwait Sheikh Salem Abdel Aziz Al Sabah received at his office today board chairman and director general of the Arab Monetary Fund Osama Fakih.

Fakih told Kuna, after the meeting, he informed Sheikh

Salem of the fund's plans, achievements and role in promoting Arab monetary markets and in co-ordinating their activities.

He emphasized that an AMF team comprising three economic and legal experts visited Kuwait foreign exchange market last March and conducted intensive consultations with parties concerned in the market from both government and private sectors.

He said the group was about to finalise a study on Kuwait money market which would be submitted to concerned parties in the country.

Fakih stated that out of the desire of co-ordination among Arab money markets and in order to highlight investment opportunities they offer on Arab and international levels, the fund started to establish an information bank which would publish bulletins and periodical statistics on activities of Arab financial markets and indications driven out of them.

Libya to maintain dialogue with US oil firms

Companies get US approval

NICOSIA, Cyprus, Dec 11. (AP) Libya intends to maintain a dialogue with the five American oil companies that have interests in the North African country, the Middle East Economic Survey reported today.

The Nicosia-based weekly newsletter quoted Libya's Oil Minister, Fawzi Shakshuki, as saying his country was conducting the dialogue while awaiting the time when US restrictions on dealing with the country will be lifted.

Shakshuki said that Libya's position was that a partner "should be a full partner who undertakes his responsibilities and has mutual interests. Partnership cannot be from one side only."

"If the American companies receive US government approval to operate in Libya as a full partner having full rights and undertaking all obligations, including the training of

Libyans, sending high-level experts and providing oilfield spare parts, if they can achieve that, they are welcome to come back," he added.

"If not, we will continue the talks," Shakshuki told the newsletter that "there is a dialogue. Each side understands the position of the other and is working to reduce the obstacles in an appropriate manner."

Official negotiations between Libya's National Oil Corp. and Marathon, Occidental, Conoco, Amerasia-Hess and WR Grace have been suspended since last July.

But the newsletter said it was understood that informal talks will continue to be held between the two sides in various European cities with no formal meetings scheduled.

The newsletter reported earlier that the United States has urged the European Economic Community and several European

countries individually not to relax diplomatic sanctions against Libya.

Sanctions against the North African country were adopted in 1986 after Libya was accused of involvement in terrorist attacks against American installations in Europe.

The United States and European countries restricted the number and activities of Libyan diplomats and suspended high-level contacts. The United States imposed a trade embargo and ordered US companies to cease operating in Libya.

The Bush administration has stuck to tough conditions for the five oil companies to be allowed to resume operations in Libya — no Libyan oil sold to the United States, no Americans working in Libya, no transfer of US oil industry parts or technology, and no training for Libyans in the United States.

Debt crisis refuses to go away but '89 may be turning point

LONDON, Dec 11. (Reuters): Seven years after Mexico declared it was broke and ushered in the Third World debt crisis, the myth that developing nations will one day repay the \$1.3 trillion they owe has finally been exploded.

As a new decade beckons, 1989 is being seen increasingly as a turning point, a year in which policy-makers begrudgingly cast aside the taboo surrounding debt forgiveness and held out at least a glimmer of hope for the 1990s.

That is not to say the debt crisis is about to go away. The World Bank says African nations are almost as poor as they were 30 years ago. Latin America is still engulfed in the avalanche of loans that seemed to point the way to prosperity in the '70s.

But over the past 12 months attitudes

have undergone a radical change, from the US Treasury in Washington to bank boardrooms across the world's major financial centres.

The new message is simple: if the Third World is to recover from the stagnation of the 1980s, the debt burden must be cut.

"The world is finally coming round to the idea that the sheer mass of debt has to be reduced," said Professor Mike Faber at the University of Sussex institute of development studies.

The 1980s were a lost decade for the developing world as hard-won export earnings were eaten up by the need to repay loans which had grown to \$630 billion by the time Mexico stunned the world in 1982 from just 90 billion 10 years earlier.

The figure has now risen to about \$1.3 trillion.

The 1990s are likely to see an increasing amount of that debt forgiven by both governments and banks but economists doubt whether write-offs foreseen under a plan launched in March by US Treasury Secretary Nicholas Brady will be a cure-all.

The blueprint, which encourages banks to reduce loans voluntarily in return for more secure bonds, is being tested in a highly controversial deal for Mexico and has already been adapted for Costa Rica, the Philippines and Chile.

But forgiveness alone, economists say, will not solve the crisis in Third World development and is already showing signs of creating new problems as Mexico's deal begins to take shape.

"There is a serious danger of debtor countries being trapped in a vicious circle," said Vince Cable, special adv-

iser on economic affairs to the Commonwealth Secretariat in London.

"High debt slows growth, investment falls, growth slows... it is a treadmill and very difficult for countries to escape."

For Mexico, banks have been offered three options — they can put up new money they can write-off 35 per cent of debt and have the remainder converted into bonds effectively guaranteed by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) or World Bank or they can swap their loans into bonds at a lower interest rate.

So far, banks are opting in about equal numbers for the two bond options and hardly at all to give new loans. Mexico's debt may be reduced slightly but it could be starved of new cash.

Roger Lawrence, economist at the

United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (Unctad) in Geneva, believes the public sector will have to fill the gap in the 1990s, relying on the IMF and World Bank to channel funds into the Third World.

"The 1990s is likely to turn into a decade in which we restate the usefulness of a public sector role in the debt crisis," he said. "The markets, left to themselves, went up a cul-de-sac with Latin American debt."

As banks build reserves against outright losses, more and more could use the Brady plan to turn their back on new lending, a danger the big banks are all too aware of.

"The debt crisis is at a turning point," William Rhodes, the Citibank executive who has been a key negotiator since the first Mexican rescue package in 1982, told bankers

recently.

"The current phase, if not managed carefully, could undermine the progress to date and leave future financing for much of the developing world entirely to government sources."

The history of the debt crisis, argues Faber at Sussex University, has shown that solutions will evolve only gradually as plans are modified and superseded on the basis of what he calls a "theory of successive disappointments."

It is at the moment being applied only to countries undertaking reform under the supervision of the IMF. Unctad argues some Third World nations are in such a mess they need debt reduction first, before they can entertain reform. "If there is light at the end of the

Continued on Page 16

WORLD STOCK ROUNDUP

SYDNEY, Dec 11. (Reuters): The market closed lower in featureless trading as pre-Christmas lethargy set in. The All Ordinaries index fell 10.2 points to 1,615.8.

TOKYO: Prices fluctuated for most of the day but closed firm in mixed, moderate trading. The Nikkei index rose 28.61 to 37,752.67.

HONG KONG: Prices of blue chips ended slightly higher as the market hunted for trading volume in the absence of new incentives. The Hang Seng index rose 9.22 to 2,763.33.

SINGAPORE: Share prices closed mixed. Selected and speculative buying by institutions and individuals

alternated with profit-taking. The Straits Times industrial index rose 3.58 to close at a post-crash high of 1,468.24.

BOMBAY: The Bombay Stock Exchange was closed for trading to enable brokers to complete business done in the two weeks ended Friday last. Trading resumed on Tuesday.

FRANKFURT: West German shares closed mixed in quiet trade with investors continuing to take profits after recent gains. The DAX index rose 2.93 points to finish at 1,653.72.

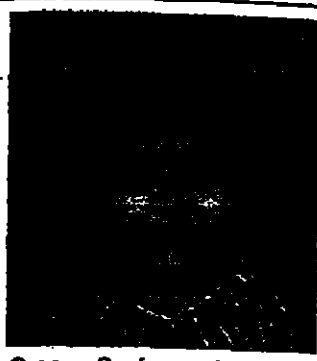
ZURICH: Light buying helped Swiss shares close steadily in a slow and lethargic session, dealers said.

Dec 11 1989

JUNIOR TIMES

ARAB TIMES, TUESDAY, DECEMBER 12, 1989

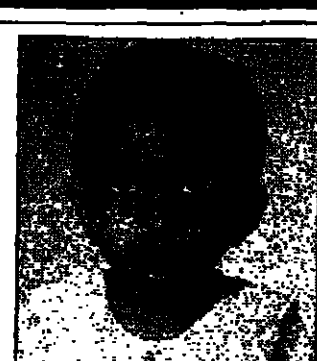
Happy birthday



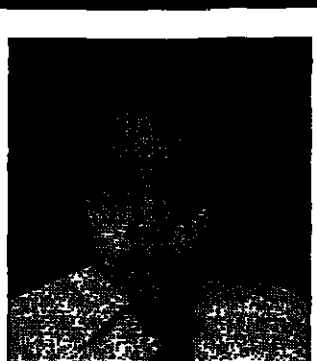
Omayya Sarfraz celebrated her 7th birthday on November 28. Belated greetings from parents, family and friend.
Omayya goes to the Pakistan School Rumaithia and likes reading.



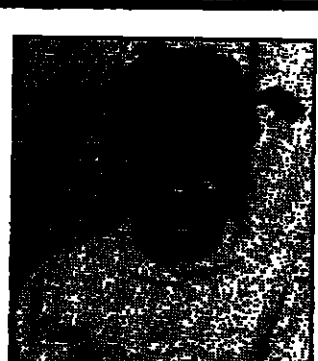
Lalit Kapur celebrated his 9th birthday on December 8. Belated greetings from parents, family and friends.
Lalit goes to the Carmel School and likes dancing and skating.



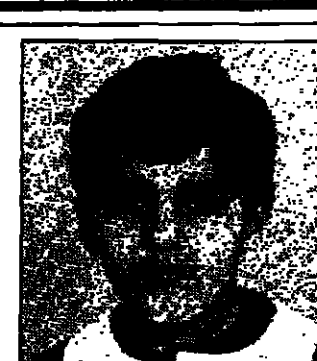
Pooja Venugopal celebrated her 5th birthday on December 4. Belated greetings from parents, family and friends.
Pooja goes to the Indian School Fahaheel and likes drawing and stories.



Fayad Mukadam celebrated his 8th birthday on December 4. Belated greetings from parents, family and friends.
Fayad goes to the Indian School Fahaheel and likes swimming and cartoons.



Aysha Shoukat celebrated her 4th birthday on December 8. Belated greetings from parents, family and friends.
Aysha goes to the Kuwait Indian School and likes playing in the garden.



Naveed Chandasir celebrated his 10th birthday on December 7. Belated greetings from parents, family and friends.
Naveed goes to the Pakistani School-Rumaithia and likes cartoons.



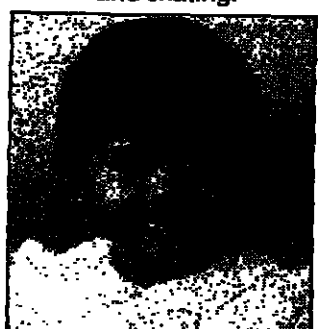
Deepa Trikha celebrated her 11th birthday on December 8. Belated greetings from parents, family and friends.
Deepa goes to the Indian School and likes dancing and swimming.



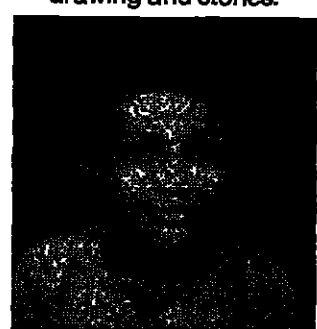
Fasiha Chandasir celebrated her 4th birthday on December 7. Belated greetings from parents, family and friends.
Fasiha likes playing with her brother and writing.



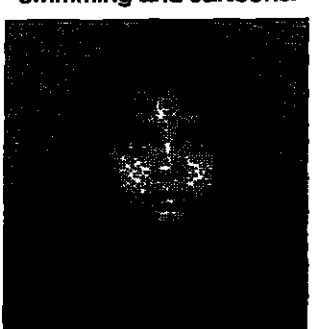
Sanjay Bhatia celebrated his birthday on December 9. Belated greetings from parents, family and friends.
Sanjay likes watching cartoons and reading books.



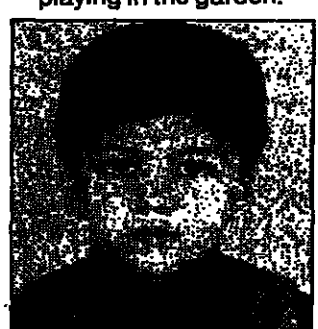
Mathura K. celebrated her 8th birthday on December 10. Belated greetings from parents, family and friends.
Mathura goes to Mrs Tongs Play School.



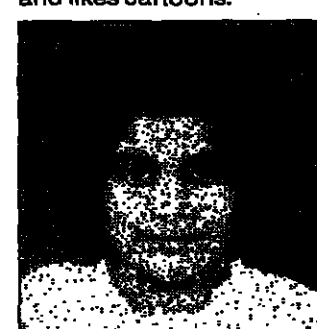
Fahad Yousef celebrated his 8th birthday on December 11. Happy birthday from parents, family and friends.
Fahad goes to the United Indian School.



Victoria Menezes celebrates her 6th birthday today December 12. Happy birthday from parents and family.
Victoria goes to the Carmel School and likes fishing, drawing and painting.



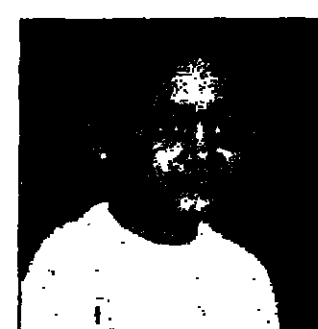
Sameer Syed celebrates his 5th birthday today December 12. Happy birthday from parents, family and friends.
Sameer goes to the New Indian School and likes drawings and cartoons.



Noushin Saif celebrates her 9th birthday on December 13. Happy birthday from parents and family.
Noushin goes to the International School of Pakistan and likes stamp collecting.



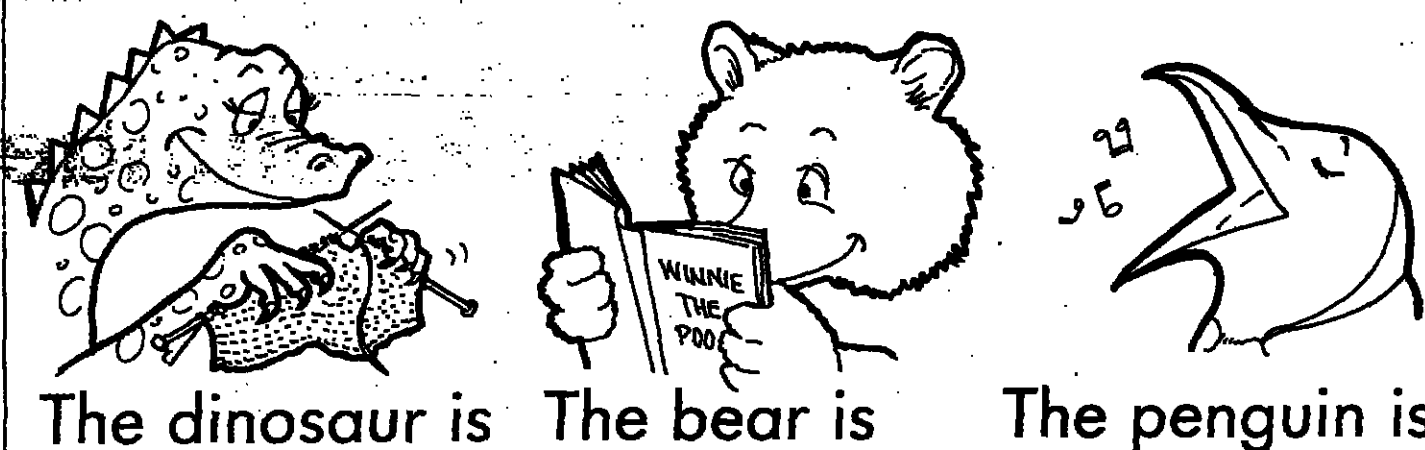
Nitty Mathews celebrated her 8th birthday on December 13. Happy birthday from parents, family and friends.
Nitty goes to the Indian School, Abbasiya and likes reading.



Sameen Ashraf celebrates her 6th birthday December 14. Happy birthday from parents, family and friends.
Sameen goes to the Pakistani School-Rumaithia and likes painting.

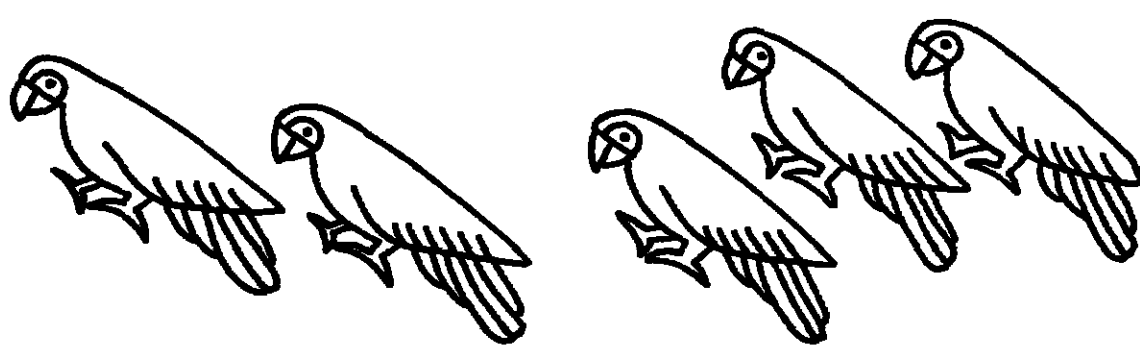
Actions

Write the missing words

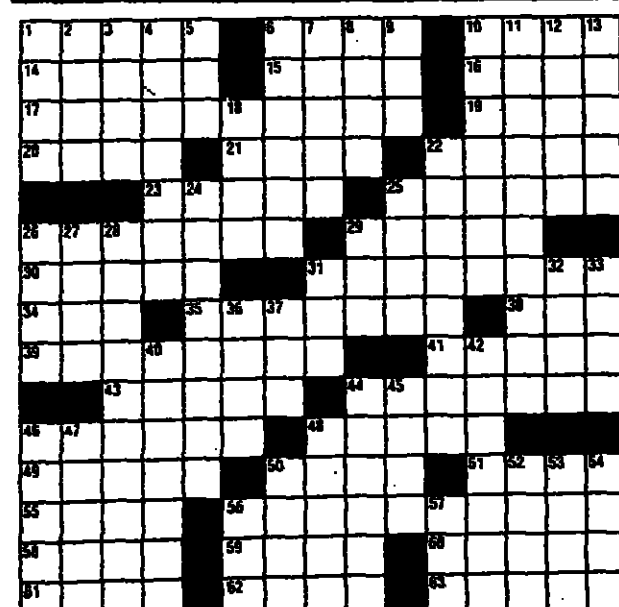


Most

Circle the group in each line that has most animals.

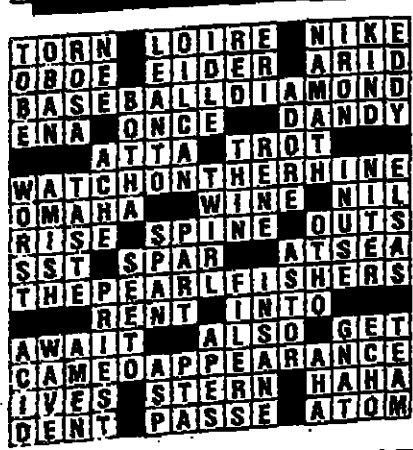


TODAY'S CROSSWORD



- ACROSS**
- Gradation
 - Sole dish
 - Elec. values
 - Rocky slope
 - Swift creature
 - "Winne... the..."
 - Unlucky
 - Pretense
 - Source
 - Sharp turns
 - Perfume
 - Without a sou
 - Engraver
 - Gain
 - Tribute
 - Fanatic
 - Gave a smile of sorts
 - Collection of memorable sayings
 - Lag bones
 - Wire sbrv
 - Informant
 - Indy 500 vehicle
 - Outdo
 - Carved ornament on a gable
 - Encloses
 - Wading bird
 - Relaxed
 - Prejudice
 - Constant
 - Short distance
 - Unimaginative
 - Shelter
 - Formerly
 - Upset
 - Music and dance
 - Cauterize
 - Look after
- DOWN**
- Pousa
 - Symbolic ring
 - Telephone answer
 - British
 - container of a kind
 - Schedule abbr.
 - Predatory bird
 - Comprehensive
 - Greek god
 - Join
 - Satisfy
 - Cher's Academy Award winner: 1987
 - Sheriff's group
 - Absolute
 - Sea of... USSR
 - Outmoded companion?
 - Embarrassed
 - Robin Cook book
 - At a distance
 - Movies, in Cannes
 - Providential
 - Sesame
 - Big... Calif.
 - Dueler's weapon
 - Gossip
 - Réunion et Martinique, e.g.
 - canto (singing style)
 - Omits
 - Solvent
 - Volcano feature
 - Headstrong
 - Holiday, in Madrid
 - Nibbler
 - About
 - Distressful matter
 - Boorish
 - Fixed amount
 - Taro
 - Goddess of dawn
 - Tourist transport

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE



GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN AND OMAR SHARIF
RIGHT SUIT AT THE RIGHT TIME

Both vulnerable. North deals.
NORTH
♠ 10 6 5 3
♥ A 7
♦ A K 7 5 4 2
♣ 7
WEST
♠ K 8 2
♥ J 10 9 6 4
♦ Q J 10
♣ 8 6
EAST
♠ Q 9 4
♥ Q 8 5 3
♦ 9 6
♣ A 10 9 5
SOUTH
♠ A J 7
♥ K 2
♦ 8 3
♣ K Q J 4 3 2

The bidding:
North East South West
1 ♦ Pass 2 ♣ Pass
2 ♦ Pass 3 NT Pass
Pass Pass

Opening lead: Jack of ♣
When you have two suits you can establish, how do you determine which is the right one to tackle? Quite often, counting your tricks will give you the answer.
The auction was simple enough. North saw no reason to introduce his weak spade suit, especially with such a fine six-card minor, so South simply bid what he thought the side's combined assets would make. West led the jack of hearts. Assuming you were declarer, which minor suit would you have gone af-

ter at the second trick?
To arrive at the right decision, all you have to do is count your tricks. On top there are five fast tricks. Since you have to surrender a trick to set up diamonds, that line increases your total to only eight, and by then the enemy would have their heart suit established.
The count of your possible winners reveals you need at least one club trick to fulfill your contract. Therefore, you should win the opening heart lead in dummy and lead a club.

Assume your king of clubs loses to the ace. The defenders would then force out your remaining stopper, and you would have to rely on an even club split to bring home your game.
Where you gain is on those occasions when East holds the ace of clubs, even if the suit is divided 4-2. If East rises with the ace of clubs, you would score five club tricks and five others for an overtrick, so that defender has to follow low. Your king wins and, with a sixth trick in the bank, you then turn your attention to diamonds. Since the odds on a 3-2 diamond split are better than 3-3 clubs, you immediately concede a diamond and, when that suit behaves, you score a well-earned nine tricks.

THE WIZARD OF ID

By Brant Parker and Johnny Hart



B.C.

By Johnny Hart



YOUR STARS

Aries (March 20 - April 18)
Make sure you respect other people's opinions and values. Avoid doing anything that might be considered to be a nuisance. And make sure you are on time for an appointment. Be less pessimistic.

Cancer (June 21 - July 21)
You will be in good form and will be able to make rapid progress. However you must not try to do more than you have the ability to, although you should not underestimate yourself. Take the best possible care of your health.

Libra (Sept 22 - Oct. 22)
You will be able to cope with an unpleasant situation. You should make sure you do not appear to be a busybody. Try to learn from your mistakes. Be lenient.

Capricorn Dec 22 - Jan 19
You must beware of being over optimistic but there is no reason for excessive pessimism. You should try to exert a little more willpower. Do not be afraid to change your mind but do not waver once you have made it up. Be considerate.

Taurus (April 19 - May 19)
You will have something to be pleased about but you should not be smug. Do not exaggerate the difficulties but nor should you ignore them. Take even better care when on the road. Be tactful.

Leo (July 22 - Aug 21)
You should not try to avoid the responsibility for something you have done. A friend of yours will appreciate the concern you have shown for his problems. You should not try to do too many things all at once. Be reliable.

Scorpio (Oct 23 - Nov. 21)
Mars's influence will help you to achieve what you set out to do. You should not be too proud to accept good advice. Try not to allow your prejudices to cloud your judgment. Be tolerant.

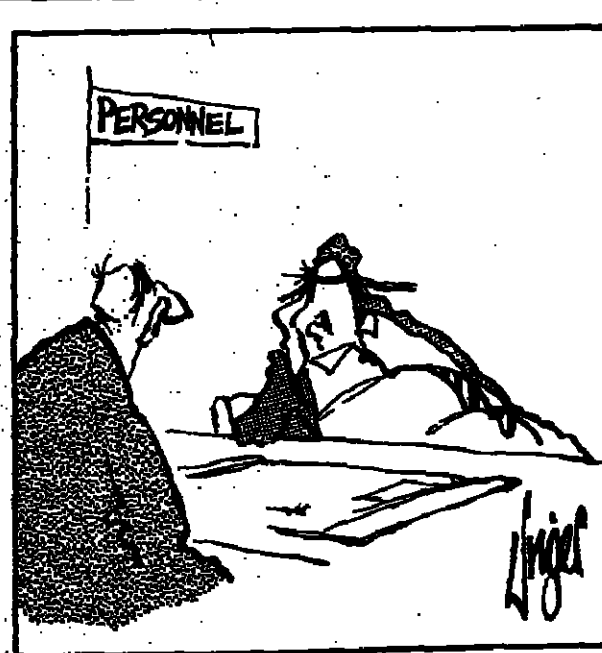
Aquarius (Jan 20 - Feb. 18)
Avoid trying to make your children into little versions of yourself — allow them to develop their own personality. You must make sure that you do not exaggerate or exceed the limits of propriety.

Gemini (May 20 - June 20)
You should not always try to get your own way, consider the wishes of those close to you too. You should pay a little more attention to detail without allowing yourself to mistake the trees for the wood.

Virgo (Aug 22 - Sept 21)
You should not allow yourself to be intimidated by the magnitude of the task ahead of you, just get on with it. Make sure you do not do anything to turn a little disagreement into a major row.

Sagittarius (Nov 22 - Dec 21)
You should rely more on persuasion than on any attempt to impose your authority. Also try to show a little more goodwill towards others. Do not ask for more than to what you are entitled otherwise you will be sorely disappointed.

Pisces (Feb 19 - March 19)
You should ensure that you do not make excessive use of credit cards. You will be more inventive but you should make sure that you test your ideas out before applying them to something concrete. Take a little better care of your health.



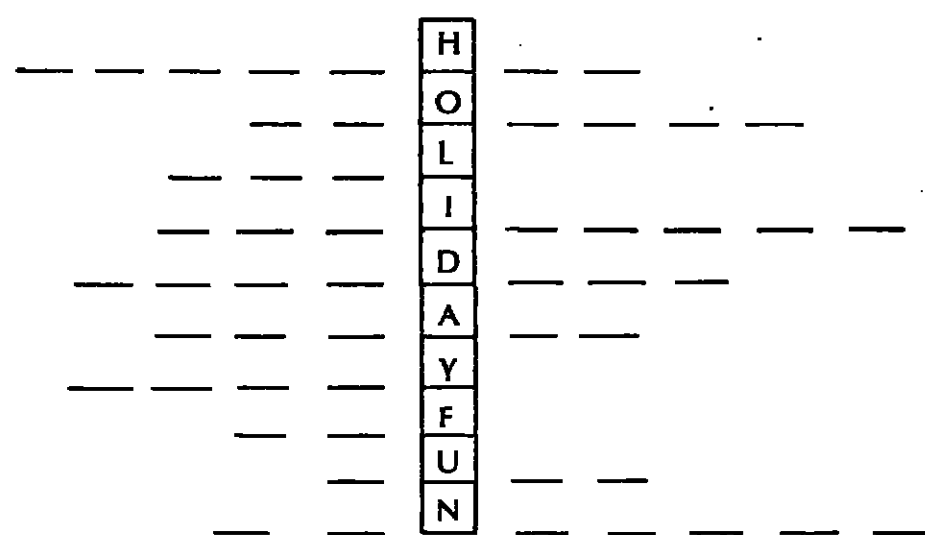
"I prefer to work without supervision."

JUNIOR TIMES

ARAB TIMES, TUESDAY, DECEMBER 15

December Fun

Directions: Place the words from the word list in the spaces below. Place one letter on each blank space. Use each word only once.



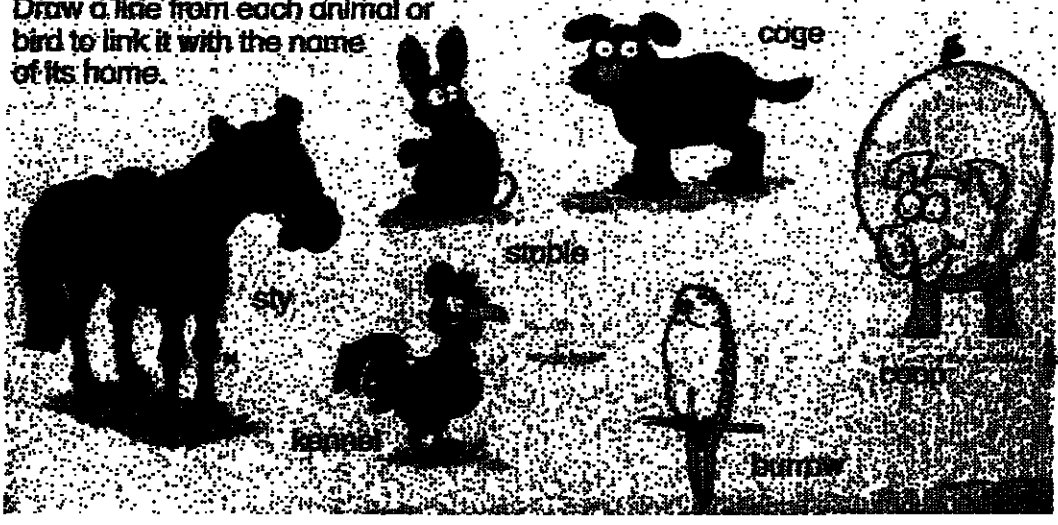
Word List:

Hanukkah	elf
yule	holly
snowshoe	reindeer
Christmas	Noel
wreath	snowman



Home sweet home

Draw a line from each animal or bird to link it with the name of its home.



Word search

HOLLYWOOD'S LEADING LADIES

Here's a memory-bender for all lovers of old movies. These ladies brought us out to the Bijou on Saturday nights and still keep us company at home on T.V.

B A Y O U N G S R E H T I W D
M H L R E K O E N E F J S C I
M A I N V H L S O A N P H Q D
G R A S T E H T Y L B D E A L
U L A K E V N E C L R X R D E
H O P K I N S A W A L N I A I
T W O O D Z R Y B A E A D V G
I E W H R R B M I L E S A I H
M F E D O C O E L F E T N S K
S L L L F L N R E Y N O L D S
G A L H W I I M A I S R J H L
O M N R A Q P D T R E B L O C
R O P R R T U Z A Y V U F R W
A U C E C S L G C Y G X E N H
D R I K B M O N R O E I N E H

ALLYSON, June	DAY, Doris
ASTOR, Mary	FAYE, Alice
BLYTH, Ann	GARDNER, Ava
CARROLL, Madeleine	GARSON, Greer
COLBERT, Claudette	HARLOW, Jean
CRAIN, Jeanne	HENIE, Sonja
CRAWFORD, Joan	HOLIDAY, Judy
DARNELL, Linda	HOPKINS, Miriam
DAVIS, Bette	HORNE, Lena
	KEELER, Ruby
	KERR, Deborah
	LAKE, Veronica
	LAMOUR, Dorothy
	LANE, Priscilla
	LEIGH, Vivian
	LOMBARD, Carole
	LUPINO, Ida
	MAIN, Marjorie
	MILES, Vera
	MONROE, Marilyn
	POWELL, Eleanor
	REYNOLDS, Debbie
	SHERIDAN, Ann
	SMITH, Alexis
	VENABLE, Evelyn
	WITHERS, Jane
	WOOD, Natalie
	YOUNG, Loretta

Dear Junior readers,

In this edition of Junior Times, a wonderful grandmummy has written a sophisticated poem, which comes all the way from England.

Mrs Dorothy Howell, who lives in Mablethorpe, advises all Junior Times readers, and every child on earth, to look after his or her life with great care.

Her advice is worth taking. You only live once and each and every day that passes will never ever return.

Mrs Howell, on behalf of all Junior Times readers and myself: "Thank you, and have a wonderful Christmas."

Another thing worth thinking about is Craig Shergold. Seven year old Craig is suffering from cancer and will soon be dying. His last wish is to be in the Guinness Book of World Records. Help fulfill this wish by sending him a good wishes card.

If you are interested send your card to: Craig Shergold, 56 Selby Road, Carshalton, Surrey, SM5 1LD, England.

Moral

Gift of life

Life is a gift that is given to us. How we use it is our own affair. We choose to abuse it with cruelty or drugs. Then don't expect love to be there.

We have to give love, if we want to receive, halfway is never enough. To be born without love, is to deceive, then life is indeed very tough.

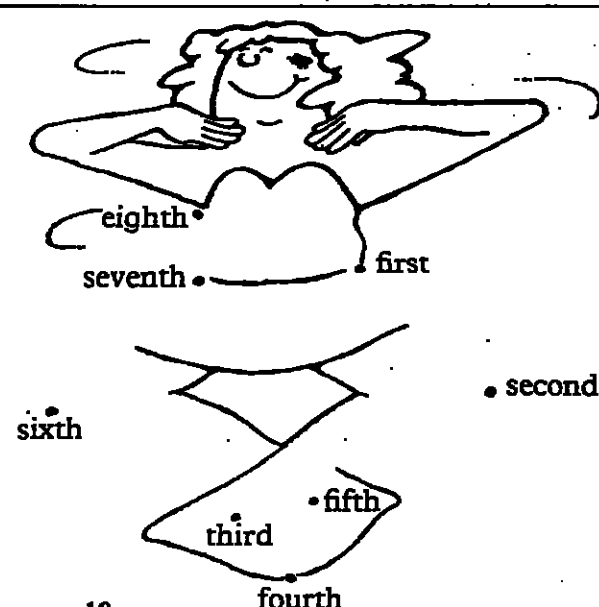
Some people lose the gift of sight sometimes, they are born deaf. To have lost a limb, might seem alright, just don't lose the gift of belief.

A handicapped child is patiently blessed, with more courage and love than us adults. It's in a wheelchair, they show us their best, to beat us at games, without faults.

They know more of love and maybe of life, what to do with what they have got. Indeed we could learn without any strife, To cherish our own little lot.

By Dorothy May Howell, (Mablethorpe, UK.)

Join the dots



Choose from:

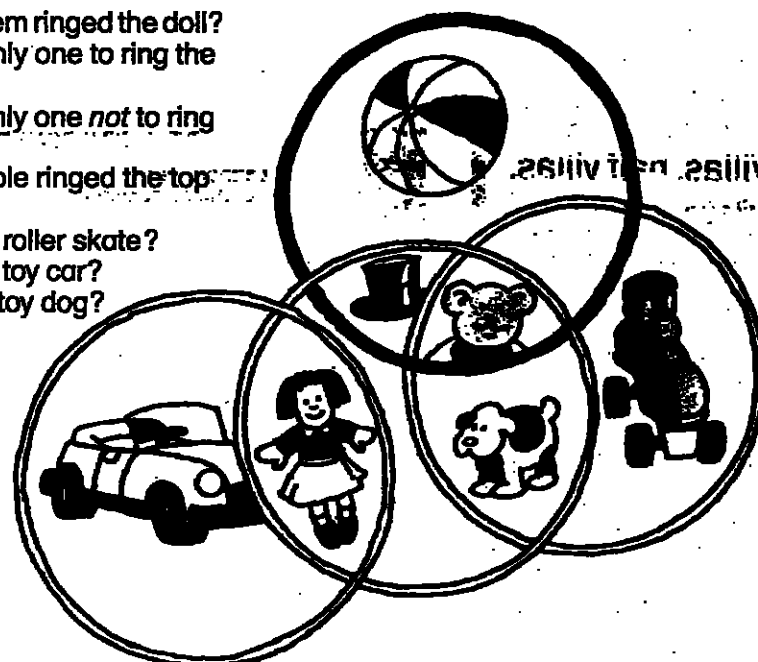
scissors
dancer
prince
tongs

I see a

Ringleaders

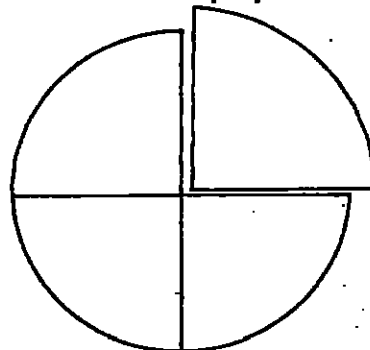
Clive, Claire, Jonathan and Jane have been having fun at the hoop-la stall. Clive threw the red ring, Claire the blue ring, Jonathan the green ring and Jane the yellow ring, and sometimes they ringed the same objects.

- Which two of them ringed the doll?
- Who was the only one to ring the ball?
- Who was the only one not to ring the teddy?
- How many people ringed the top hat?
- Who ringed the roller skate?
- Who ringed the toy car?
- Who ringed the toy dog?



My cousin Monty Mouse

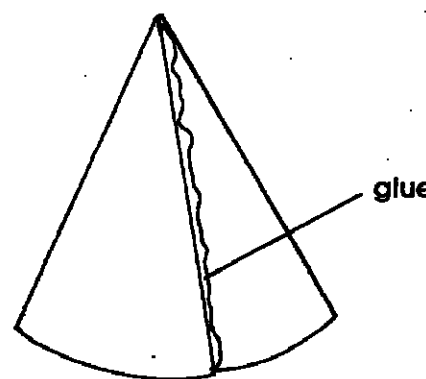
Draw round a saucer or small plate onto thick paper or card.



Make two ears and stick on.

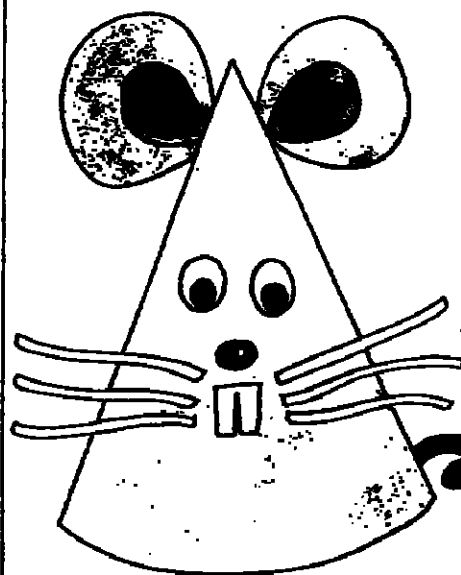
Cut out and divide into four.

Cut away one quarter, bend the rest round and glue to make a cone.

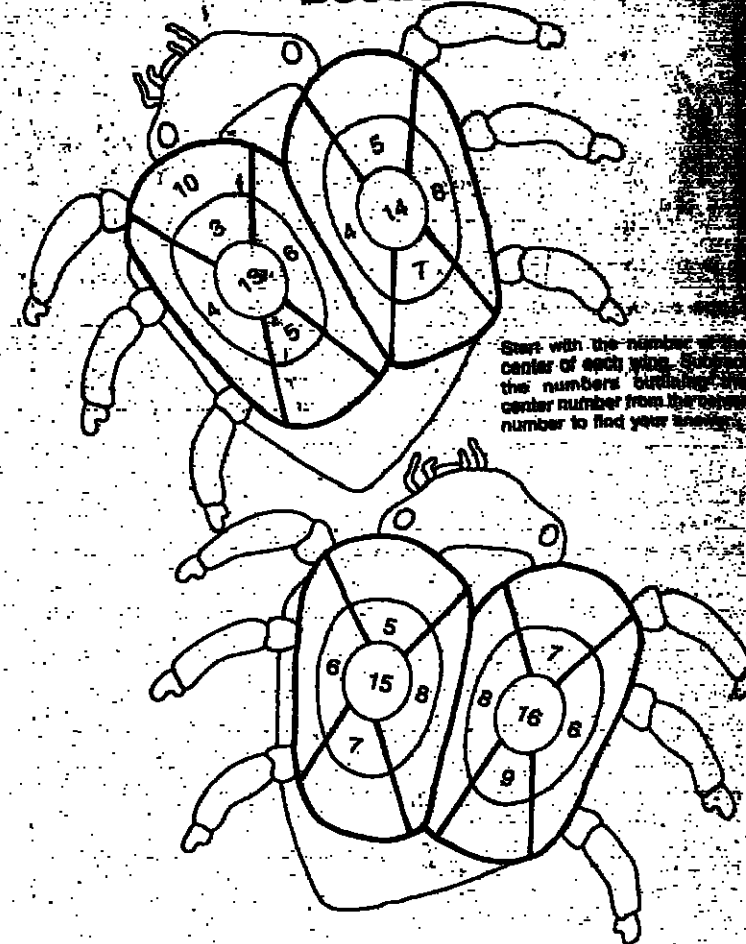


Make a curly tail by winding a strip of paper round a pencil.

Draw eyes, nose and front teeth and stick on strips of paper or pipe cleaners for whiskers.

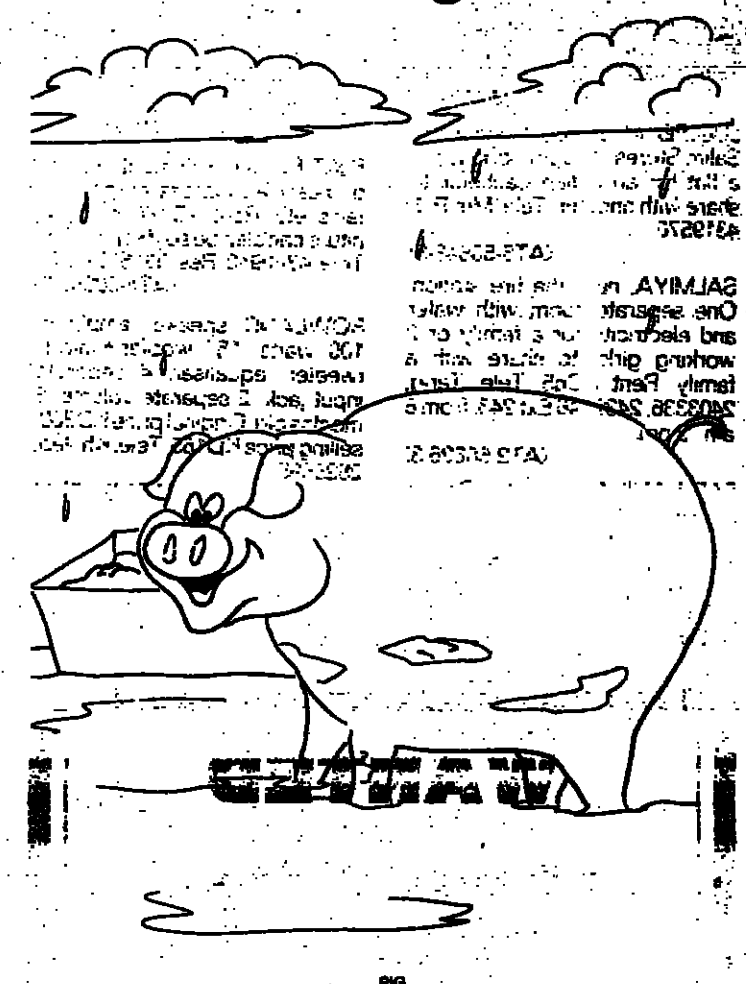


Beetles



Start with the number in the center of each beetle. Then the numbers outside the center number from the center number to find your beetle.

Colouring time



Draw a bird in the nest.



Birthday coupon

Is your birthday to come soon? Are you a regular reader of the Junior Times? Well, now is the chance to let your friends know that it is your birthday! Or maybe you would like to surprise your best friend, brother or sister by putting their picture in for them. The details we need are:

Name: _____
Date of birth: _____
School: _____
Hobbies: _____
Telephone: _____ (confidential)

Your favourite most recent picture (4x6)

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Junior Times
P.O. Box 2270
13023, Safat,
Kuwait
To avoid delayed greetings please send within a week before the special date

هنا من الأول

ARAB TIMES Classifieds

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ACCOMMODATION For Rent

SALWA, deluxe, ground floor flat, CAC, with swimming pool, cupboards, 4 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, servant's room, and a large hall. Rent KD450, with water and electricity. Tele. 5324848.
(AT2-50635-6)

KUWAIT City, Sharq, behind the Firdous Cinema, House No. 177, beside the Teachers Training Institute. Mulhaq. Tele. Ejjat Mohamed Musa 2432169.
(AT2-50632-3)

SALWA, villa, ground floor with mulhaq (the outside building) and garage for best offer. Suitable for Europeans. Tele. Fajri, 2436048, mornings; 2540050, evenings.
(AT3-50641-3)

Available

KUWAIT City, above Hala Restaurant. One room for bachelors to share with a Goan family. Contact M/s Al Saheb Sari Store. Tele. 2402867.
(AT4-50676-3)

JULEEB-AI Shiyookh, near the Salim Stores. Accommodation in a flat for an Indian bachelor to share with another. Tele. Mrs. P.O. 4319570.
(AT3-50648-3)

SALMIYA, near the fire station. One separate room with water and electricity for a family or 2 working girls, to share with a family. Rent KD65. Tele. Tariq, 2403336, 2432048 Ext. 243, from 8 am - 2 pm.
(AT2-50626-3)

FARWANIYA, next to Gamra Restaurant, Building No. 6, Flat No. 3. Wanted a Goan-Mangalorean bachelor to share with another to share with a Goan family. Tele. Mr. Fernandes 4764617.
(AT4-50657-3)

ABBASIYA. One room with kitchen and tele facilities for a couple/one or two bachelors to share with a small north Indian family. Tele. Ranjit Singh, Res. 4740388, off. 4812085, 8 am - 7.30 pm.
(AT4-50687-3)

FARWANIYA, Area 2, Street 79, House No. 6629. Required one working lady to share with another lady in an apartment. Tele. Abdul Aziz or Shaheeda, 4761942. Res. 4740801, Off. 8 am - 1 pm & 4.30 - 7.30 pm.
(AT3-50642-2)

KUWAIT City, behind the Sharq Tower. Sharing accommodation in a room for a Mangalorean/Goan bachelor from 1.1.90. Tele. Quadros, 4815619, 4846355.
(AT4-50651-3)

FOR SALE

Miscellaneous

THICK window curtains, Italian dressing table with mirror, Sanyo 20 inch TV, steel cupboard for clothes/books and miscellaneous items, in excellent condition. Tele. Mr. Anwar, 5331574.
(AT3-50646-3)

FLAT for sale with furniture, tele, domestic appliances, carpet, curtains etc. Rent KD160 pm. Furniture can also be sold separately. Tele. 4740943, Res. 5316791 off.
(AT4-50659-3)

ROWLAND speaker amplifier, 100 watts, 15" woofer + mid-tweeter, equaliser, 4 separate input jacks, 2 separate volume, 6 months old. Original price KD300, selling price KD165. Tele. Khaled, 2525565.
(AT3-50652-3)

ONE well-unit, 3 single beds, kitchen table, dining table, sofa set, 3 cabinets, 3 desks, 2 bureau etc. Tele. 2455336 upto 6 pm, 5752870 ext 463 after 7 pm.
(AT4-50674-3)

TWO floor deluxe villa in Salwa completely equipped with European furniture for sale or rent with tele and fax. Tele. 5636753, 2-6 pm.
(AT4-50670-3)

TWO National A/Cs and a 'Kids R Us' baby cot. Tele. 2463475 from 5-8 pm.
(AT2-50634-3)

SOFA set (2), central table wooden and glass, TV stand, baby cot, cooler (gold). Mahruf, Area 4, Street No. 5, House 26A. Tele. 5391068.
(AT3-50639-3)

BRAND new National video camera M3 (recording and playback) hardly used, for sale. KD280. Tele. Arif 4843825, 4843025 Ext. 60 from 8 am - 1 pm and 4-7 pm.
(AT2-50629-3)

Cars

CHEVROLET Nova 1978, 2 doors, insured up to October 1990. Best offer. Tele. 2414901/2445788, 8.30 am - 5 pm.
(AT4-50656-2)

SAAB turbo 1984, automatic, 4 doors, AC, maroon, 76,000 kms. radio and cassette, in very good condition. KD950. Tele. 5332923, 5315165.
(AT4-50644-3)

LOST

GERMAN Shepherd, big, black-brown dog. Valuable prize for finder. Tele. 5320348.
(AT2-50645-3)

NAME CHANGE

I, SANTOSH KUMAR, son of Velivestil Kumar, holder of Indian Passport No. S 648097 embraced Islam and changed my name to Abdullah Mohammed Velivestil.
(AT2-TM-3)

MISCELLANEOUS

STITCHING, cooking, home lessons given by an experienced lady at home at Mecca Street, Fahsheel, near the Sadeef Pharmacy. Tele. Sheela, 3920760, 8 am - 1 pm.
(AT3-50638-3)

SERVICES

Tuition

NURSERY and KG classes from 2 years of age, given by an experienced lady, teacher at home at Mecca street, Fahsheel, near the Sadeef Pharmacy. Tele. Sheela, 3920760, 8 am - 1 pm.
(AT3-50637-3)

MATHS, physics and chemistry for GCSE and GCE (O' and A levels). Tele. 5331867.
(AT4-50673-3)

PRIVATE electric organ music lessons at Hasawiya for children and ladies. Tele. 4314235.
(AT4-50650-3)

Baby Sitting

BABY-SITTING and nursery available with a good experienced Indian lady in Yarmouk near the faculty of Science, Khaldiya. Tele. Mrs D Souza, 4849146, 8 am - 1 pm.
(AT4-50655-3)

AVAILABLE in Jabriya on the 4th Ring Road. Tele. Mrs. Virginia, 2657293.
(AT3-50623-3)

ENGLISH mother requires Muslim babysitter from 6.45 am to 1.45 pm, 6 days a week in Dasmia area. Must be English speaking with experience. Tele. Mrs. Edwards 2511093.
(AT2-50630-3)

Transport

REQUIRED within Kuwait City 7.15 am and 1.35 pm. Tele. 2424543.
(AT4-50668-2)

REQUIRED for a lady from Salamiya to the City. Office timings 8 am - 1 pm. Tele. 5644063, after 2 pm only.
(AT4-50669-3)

SITUATIONS

Vacant

PROFESSIONAL nurse required for a family to look after an aged woman, 72 years old, 3 hours a day. Tele. 2530796 (Res) 2461845/6, office.
(AT2-50633-3)

MAID required for a small family with children to live-in, in Abu Halifa. Must speak English, and have a transferable residence. Tele. 3719589, after 3 pm.
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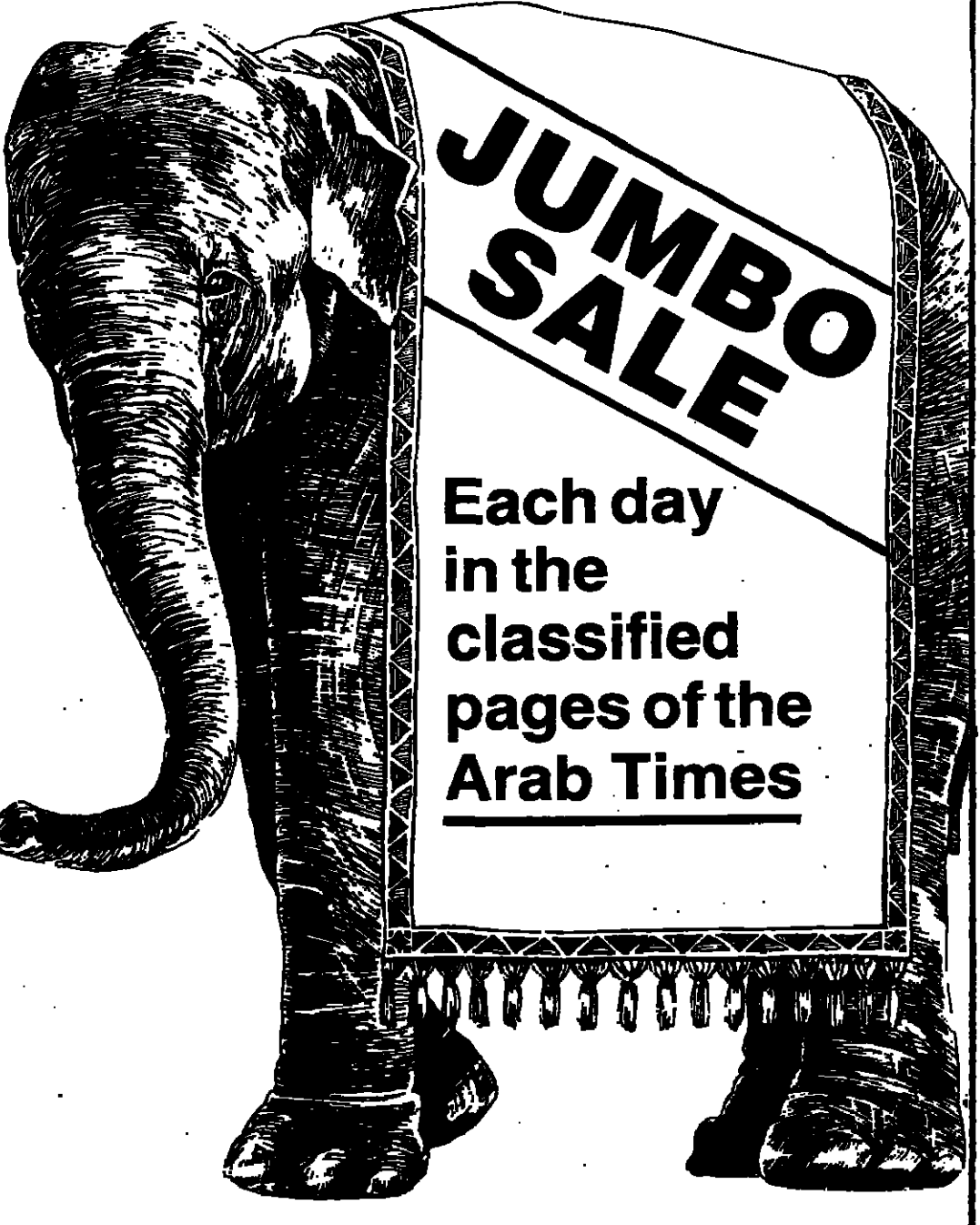
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ARAB TIMES NEWS IS OUR BUSINESS

Egypt wary of tough group

CAIRO, Egypt Dec 11, (AP)—The luck of the draw—all bad—had Egypt's soccer establishment worried yesterday that the country's first World Cup appearance in 56 years will be less than memorable.

"If it hadn't been a lottery, I would have said they were out to get us," said Hussein Madkour, vice-president of the Egyptian Soccer Union.

Saturday's first-round draw in Rome, Italy, for the 1990 World Cup placed Egypt in Group F, playing in Cagliari and Palermo. More important, its opponents are surprising Ireland and two of Europe's traditionally good teams, England and the current European champions, Netherlands.

Against the spectre of such competition, Egyptian soccer officials and players are reduced to expressions of good intent and high hopes.

"Our luck was that we were chosen with very strong international teams," coach Mahmoud El Gohary, in Rome for the draw, told the Cairo newspaper Al-Ahram.

Al-Ahram's headline was: "We were unlucky."

"Without a doubt, Egypt's group competitors are very powerful, but we hope to get good results," said Hosam Hassan, whose early goal against Algeria in their African zone qualifying final gave Egypt a 1-0 victory and its first World Cup berth since 1934.

Hassan called Egypt's first-round group "a hard test for Egyptian soccer."

But he predicted the team will be well-prepared for the World Cup and won't embarrass Egypt. "I wouldn't rule out... surprises," the 23-year-old forward told the Associated Press.

Coach El Gohary said the team will have a final warmup match before next year's June-July championships against powerful Denmark, a 1986 World Cup competitor which just missed 1990's final 24.

The soccer union's Madkour, called the Egyptian group the most powerful of the six in the competition.

"The draw put us between the jaws of two of the most powerful teams in the world," he said, meaning England and Holland.

Ahmed Shobair, 29, Egypt's goalkeeper and a club stalwart, also predicted he and his mates will work hard to be ready.

"This championship is a chance for all of us players to raise Egypt's reputation on the international soccer field..." Shobair said. "Let's wait for the matches to show the results."

If Egypt should pass into the second round, it would be a better performance than Egypt's only other appearance, in the second World Cup in 1934.

A medium-level soccer power in the 1920s, Egypt lost 4-2 to Hungary in 1934's first round. For Hungary, which in those days fielded one of the great soccer teams, the victory avenged a 3-2 loss to Egypt in the Olympic Games in Paris 10 years earlier.

Largest catches record 100th touchdown pass

Smith, Marino lift Dolphins past Patriots

MIAMI, Dec 11, (AP)—Sammy Smith scored on a three short runs and Dan Marino passed for 300 yards as the Miami Dolphins beat the New England Patriots 31-10 to move into the first-place tie with Buffalo in the American Football Conference East Division.

Miami, ranked third-worst in the NFL in rushing defense, limited John Stephens to 20 yards in 10 carries.

Miami and Buffalo, who lost yesterday to New Orleans, are 8-6. Because the Bills beat the Dolphins twice, Miami would have to finish ahead of Buffalo to win the playoff berth as division champion.

New England fell to 5-9 as Miami completed its first sweep over the Patriots since 1984.

Also yesterday, the Minnesota Vikings moved within one victory of their first NFC Central Division title since 1980 by beating Atlanta 43-17, and the Chicago Bears moved out of the playoff picture.

Keith Millard and Tim Newton returned third-quarter fumbles for touchdowns in Minnesota's victory. The Vikings are 9-5, one game ahead of Green Bay (8-6), which lost 21-3 at home to Kansas City.

The Bears, meanwhile, lost to Detroit in Chicago, 27-17, ending their sputtering attempt at a sixth straight division title and eliminating them from playoff contention at 6-8.

"It's not the end of the world," Bears coach Mike Ditka said. "...It's definitely my fault. I think we can put a period after that and quote marks and make a lot of you people happy."

In other NFL action yesterday, it was Philadelphia 20, Dallas 10; New York Giants 14, Denver 7; New Orleans 22, Buffalo 19; Pittsburgh 13, New York Jets 0; Houston 20, Tampa Bay

17; Los Angeles Raiders 16, Phoenix 14; and Indianapolis 23, Cleveland 17 in overtime.

This evening's game has San Francisco at the Los Angeles Rams.

Chiefs 21, Packers 3
Steve Deberg passed for two touchdowns, and the Chiefs kept alive their playoff hopes at 7-6-1. The Chiefs scored 14 points in the final minute of the first half for a 21-3 lead, then shut the Packers out in the second half.

Kansas City sacked Packers quarterback Keith Taylor four times intercepted him once and held Green Bay to four second-half first downs.

The victory was the Chiefs' third straight. Green Bay (8-6) had won three in a row.

Eagles 20, Cowboys 10
Randall Cunningham passed for 170 yards and a touchdown, keeping the Eagles tied at 10-4 atop the NFC East with the Giants.

NFL Commissioner Paul Tagliabue was at the game because of allegations the last time these two teams met that Eagles coach Buddy Ryan had offered a bounty for roughing up Cowboys players.

There were five infractions for unnecessary roughness in the game, played two days after Tagliabue dismissed the protest of the Cowboys, who are 1-13.

Giants 14, Broncos 7
Dave Meggett tipped 57 yards through the snow with a screen pass, and the Giants defense made a 14-0 halftime lead stand up over Denver, which already has clinched the AFC West with a 10-4 record.

Saints 22, Bills 19
John Fournace made his first NFL start, aside from strike games, and threw two touchdown passes for New Orleans (7-7), which was eliminated from playoff contention by Philadelphia's victory. Fournace



Falcons' tight end Gary Wilkins catches the ball to score a touchdown. (Reuters wirephoto)

replaced the benched Bobby Hebert and threw for 302 yards, helping the Saints snap a two-game losing streak. Buffalo is 8-6.

Steelers 13, Jets 0
Pittsburgh's defense, led by linebacker Greg Lloyd, got its first

shoutout since Sept. 22, 1985 against Houston. Tim Worley scored on a 35-yard run on the opening drive, then the Steelers turned to defense. Lloyd intercepted a pass and had one sack.

Oilers 20, Buccaneers 17
Warren Moon threw two touch-

down passes, and Houston's defense batted down two punts, intercepted a pass and recovered a fumble. Houston is 9-5 and atop of the AFC Central, while Tampa Bay fell to 5-9.

Seahawks 24, Bengals 17
Dave Krieg lobbed a 1-yard touchdown pass to Curt Warner with 3:51 to play for the winning touchdown, dropping Cincinnati to 7-7 and two games back of Houston. Krieg's second touchdown pass followed a disputed call. Seattle (6-8) appeared to be stopped when Warner failed on third-and-goal from the 1. But the play was blown dead for illegal motion, giving Seattle another chance.

Seahawks' veteran wide receiver Steve Largent yesterday caught his 100th career touchdown pass to break Don Hutson's 44-year-old NFL record.

Largent, who is 35 and playing in his 14th season, pulled down a 10-yard pass from Krieg with 42 seconds left in the first half of their game to eclipse Hutson's record.

Hutson had 99 touchdown catches in his career with the Green Bay Packers.

Largent, who already held the NFL record for most career receiving yards, is expected to retire after this season.

Redskins 28, Chargers 21
Mark Rypien threw two touchdown passes, and Chip Lohmiller kicked four field goals as the Redskins (8-6) gave Joe Gibbs his 100th victory as a head coach. The winning score came on a fourth-and-3 play when Rypien lofted a 33-yard touchdown pass to Gary Clark with 7:27 left, giving Washington a 23-21 lead over San Diego (4-10).

Raiders 18, Cardinals 14
Marcus Allen scored on a 1-yard dive with 40 seconds left, keeping the Raiders solidly

entrenched in the playoff race with an 8-6 mark. The Cardinals had taken a 14-9 lead on a 2-yard touchdown pass from Gary Hogeboom to Jay Novacek with 5:30 remaining. The loss was the fourth in a row for the Cardinals (5-9).

Cowboys 23, Browns 17
Mike Prior returned a pass interception 58 yards for a touchdown to give Indianapolis the victory yesterday over Cleveland Browns.

Indianapolis (7-7) got into overtime after Keith Taylor's 77-yard interception return set up the tying touchdown with 1:56 remaining in regulation. Cleveland (7-6-1) lost its third straight game.

Standings
Standings of National Football League teams after games played yesterday (Sabbath under two, lost, tied, points for, against)

American Conference
Eastern Division
Buffalo 8 6 0 362 296
Miami 8 6 0 294 310
Indianapolis 7 7 0 220 247
New England 5 9 0 267 339
NY 7 7 0 239 336

Central Division
Houston 9 5 0 338 327
Cleveland 7 6 1 287 317
Cincinnati 7 7 0 322 349
Pittsburgh 7 7 0 206 294

Western Division
Denver 10 4 0 309 207
LA Raiders 8 6 0 281 240
Kansas City 6 8 0 218 281
San Diego 4 10 0 227 261

National Conference
Eastern Division
Philadelphia 10 4 0 291 230
NY Giants 10 4 0 299 235
Washington 8 6 0 326 278
Phoenix 5 9 0 244 309
Dallas 1 13 0 154 338

Central Division
Minnesota 9 5 0 305 231
Green Bay 8 6 0 302 318
Chicago 6 8 0 330 311
Tampa Bay 5 9 0 291 333
Detroit 5 9 0 248 333

Western Division
San Francisco 11 2 0 345 216
LA Rams 9 7 0 315 275
New Orleans 3 11 0 223 375
Atlanta

Napoli end disappointing week

Real and Barcelona rout opponents

ITALIAN soccer was reminded of past nightmares on Sunday when 30 supporters were injured following the collapse of a metal barrier at Bari, one of the venues for next year's World Cup finals.

The barrier, separating Bari and Napoli fans, gave way when the crowd surged forward after Argentina and Napoli captain Diego Maradona laid on an equalizer for team-mate Andrea Carnevale.

Twelve fans fell two metres through the barrier but hospital doctors reported yesterday that most of the injuries were minor.

The incident, recalling the 1985 Heysel disaster when 39 Italians died after a wall between Juventus and Liverpool fans collapsed, completed a gloomy week for Napoli, unceremoniously dumped out of the UEFA Cup after a 5-1 thrashing by Werder Bremen.

Sunday's 1-1 draw with Bari, eight places lower in the table, saw their lead cut to three points as champions Internazionale beat bottom-placed Genoa 1-0 to leapfrog over AC Milan and Sampdoria into second place.

AC Milan midfielder Carlo Ancelotti attracted most of the headlines after earning his side a 1-1 draw against Sampdoria with a cannonball shot from outside the penalty area in the 70th minute.

It was a triumphant return for Ancelotti—dubbed 'Man of Iron' by the Gazzetta dello Sport newspaper—just a month after the fourth knee operation of his career.

In Spain, Real Madrid and Barcelona were also in good heart after their combined nine-

goal punishment of Valladolid and Cadiz. "Real Madrid turns out goals like doughnuts," said the sports newspaper Marca following Real's 4-0 success, their seventh consecutive home win. In eight games, they have now rattled up 36 goals.

Life in Madrid, though, is seldom predictable and Real president Ramon Mendoza called coach John Toshack, West German Bernd Schuster and Argentine Alfredo Ruggeri into his office yesterday to discuss their repeated clashes with the media.

A section of the local press is boycotting Toshack's news conferences after claiming he once ignored them and said "I talk with whom I want, when I want and where I want."

Johan Cruyff was delighted with Barcelona's 5-0 home win over Cadiz. "We proved we can score goals," he said. The victory lifted the Catalans back into second place on goal difference among a pack of five on 19 points behind Real.

Ajax Amsterdam took advantage of PSV Eindhoven's involvement in Cup competition to squeeze into top place in the Dutch League after a 1-1 draw at Vitesse.

The Amsterdam side controlled the first half taking a deserved lead as Richard Witschge struck a fine season, stormed back after halftime and, after Ajax goalkeeper Sjank Storm had saved a penalty, the home side finally managed an equaliser through Rick Hilgers.

Ajax head the table on goal difference from Volendam who moved up to second after a

comfortable 2-0 home win over Feyenoord. Both teams have 22 points from 17 games, with PSV a point behind with two games in hand.

Bordeaux and Marseille, the dominant sides in the French League, stumbled on Sunday in eastern France in the penultimate round this year.

Bordeaux, three points clear of second-placed Marseille, lost for only the third time this season when they went down 2-0 on Sochaux' icy pitch. Goals from Laurent Croci and former Spanish international Francisco Carrasco kept Sochaux in third place, five points behind Marseille who lost 3-2 at lowly Metz after leading 2-1 at halftime.

England's Chris Waddle and Philippe Verduynse put Marseille ahead but Metz replied with two goals from in-form Scott Ect and one from Carmelo Micocchia, eager for revenge having been sacked by Marseille only two months ago.

Bayern Munich returned to the top of the West German League on goal difference with a 3-1 win over Homburg that featured two goals from their Scottish international striker Alan McNally.

In Portugal a last-minute goal by Marinho's To-ze sent Sporting Lisbon tumbling out of the Portuguese Cup in the third round.

The 2-1 home defeat was the only shock result of the round with both Benfica and Porto, the joint favourites, brushing aside challenges from Second Division sides.

England lose Wright for soccer friendly

LONDON, Dec 11, (Reuters)—A neck injury has ruled defender Mark Wright out of England's friendly against Yugoslavia on Wednesday, adding to manager Bobby Robson's mounting World Cup headaches.

"He was keen to play, but he has a bad injury and needs to see a specialist," Robson said.

Wright's absence will further undermine an England squad already missing star Liverpool winger John Barnes, carried off as a result of Saturday with a recurrence of a hamstring injury.

Defence lynchpin Terry Butcher is also doubtful with a damaged ankle, opening the door for Arsenal captain Tony Adams to reclaim his place in the international team after 13 months in the shade.

As he attempts to cobble together a team for Wednesday's World Cup warm-up, Robson will be waiting to hear whether England's friendly against Ireland in Dublin on March 28 is still going ahead.

The two nations have been drawn together in Group F for June's World Cup finals and are not keen to give away any tactical secrets in an earlier clash.

"I have already spoken to (Ireland manager) Jack Charlton and... it is a possibility that the Ireland game could be off," Robson said. "It would mean we will both have to scurry around looking for class opponents, but Jack and I have a feeling we may like to withdraw and arrange other matches."

England's Football Association is expected to announce a decision later in the week.

English Football Association officials will be travelling to Sardinia "almost immediately" to discuss with police the security problems created by England and the Netherlands being drawn in the same group in next year's World Cup finals.

On his arrival back from the draw in Rome, FA chairman Bert Millichip said yesterday he was determined that hooligans would not wreck England's stay in Sardinia.

"We have had very close liaison with the police in Sardinia and we shall be out there almost immediately discussing with them the added problems of being paired with the Dutch," Millichip said.

When England and the Netherlands last met on a soccer pitch during last year's European championship in West Germany their notorious fans turned the centre of Dusseldorf into something resembling a battle zone.

De Silva's 167 gives Sri Lanka 51-run lead



De Silva hooks a ball from Hughes for four runs. (Reuters wirephoto)

BRISBANE, Australia, Dec 11, (Reuters)—Aravinda de Silva inspired by disparaging comments about the standard of Sri Lankan cricket, hit 167 to give the touring side a 51-run first winning lead over Australia in the first Test today.

At stumps on the fourth day Australia, who made 367 in their first innings, were 94 for one with a draw looking the most likely result.

Sri Lanka's total of 418 was their fourth highest in Test cricket. De Silva's third Test century was also the fourth highest Test score by a Sri Lankan.

De Silva, the last man out, said remarks by Victorian captain Simon O'Donnell after his side's innings defeat of Sri Lanka last month had galvanised the touring team who had lost their previous two Tests against Australia by an innings.

O'Donnell had said he shuddered to think what the Australian side would do to the tourists and De Silva admitted: "Some of the comments from Simon O'Donnell upset us deeply and we had a point to prove. It was determination which kept me going."

"It was very important not only for me but for Sri Lanka cricket which has been struggling. We had a point to prove and I still don't think the mission is finished."

De Silva, abandoning the caution of yesterday, went on the attack this morning in a record

seventh wicket partnership with Ravi Ratnayake who scored 56. The diminutive right-hander rode his luck, treating the four-man Australian pace attack with near-disdain to hit 17 boundaries in his 491-minute stay at the crease.

De Silva, the first Sri Lankan to score a century against Australia, and Ratnayake were rarely troubled as they put on 144 runs, 67 more than the previous Sri Lankan record.

De Silva reached his century with a streaky four through the slips off Ruckemann who failed in his attempt to bounce the Sri Lankan out as De Silva repeatedly belted him to the fence.

After the dismissal of Ratnayake, lbw to Hughes with the score on 382, De Silva batted as if in the final stages of a one-day match, flaying the bowling all over the ground.

Gamini Wickremasinghe and Graeme Labrooy were dismissed cheaply but number 11 Chamapala Ramanayake held up one end as De Silva smashed Sri Lanka, playing their first Test for 18 months, past 400.

Ruckemann finally ended the Sri Lankan resistance, De Silva hooking yet another bouncer into the hands of Geoff Lawson on the fence.

Ruckemann finished with three for 88, Terry Alderman three for 81 and Merv Hughes, who dropped a simple caught

and bowled chance off De Silva when he was on five, three for 123.

The uninspiring performance by the pace attack makes the return of a spin bowler for the second Test inevitable. Lawson, who took one for 51, is the most likely candidate for omission.

Scoreboard
AUSTRALIA first innings 367
SRI LANKA first innings (overnight 275 for six)

R. Mahanama lbw b Alderman... 5
D. Ratnayake c Waugh... 56
b Lawson... 40
A. Gurusinghe c Healy... 43
b Ruckemann... 22
Aravinda de Silva c Lawson... 167
b Ruckemann... 167
A. Ramanayake lbw b Hughes... 25
A. Samarasekera c Moody... 18
b Ruckemann... 18
R. Ratnayake lbw b Hughes... 56
G. Wickremasinghe c Boon... 2
b Hughes... 2
G. Labrooy lbw b Alderman... 1
C. Ramanayake not out... 10
Extras (lb-23 w-2 nb-4)... 29
Total... 418

Fall of wickets: 1-10 2-80 3-114 4-143 5-201 6-230 7-362 8-386 9-381
Bowling: Alderman 40-18-81-4 (4nb), Lawson 33-10-51-1 (1w), Ruckemann 30.3-6-88-3, Hughes 39-8-12-3 (1w), Moody 16-8-15-0, Border 7-0-36-0, Jones 1-0-1-0.

AUSTRALIA second innings
M. Taylor not out... 36
D. Boon lbw b Ramanayake... 26
T. Moody not out... 22
Extras (lb-2 nb-4)... 10
Total (for one wicket)... 94

Fall of wicket: 1-80
Bowling to date: Labrooy 13-2-33-0 (6nb), Ramanayake 11-3-25-1 (2nb), Asoka de Silva 15-6-34-0.

Evershine, Socials win

ANOTHER impressive performance from Evershine and Inam earned Evershine a place in the final of the Rothmans Cup when they beat Unity C.C. by 7 wickets on Friday at their home ground.

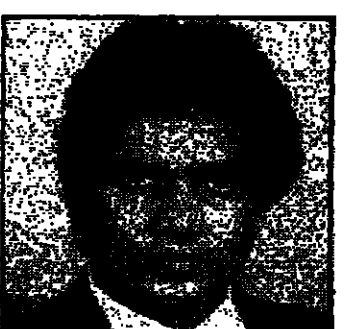
Winning the toss, Evershine's captain Dawood asked Unity to bat first. Unity opened their innings with Baber and Abuzar. Both of them played a slow innings till the 10th over when Baber was caught for 14.

Needing to exhilarate the run-rate, Unity's captain Chris sent Bittu Singh to the crease. He did not last long and was out at the total of 55 runs. Abuzar, playing an anchor innings, was caught for 37.

The only other batsman who crossed the figure of 20 was Tariq who was bowled 22. Shabir, Irfan, Chris and Sharfraz were the other batsmen being sent back for 14, 8, 9, and 10 runs respectively. Unity C.C. managed to score 147 runs in 26 overs.

All Evershine bowlers kept a tidy line and length. Most of the credit goes to Tahir and Shehzad who bowled their 6 overs and gave only 24 and 26 runs respectively for 2 wickets each. Dawood, Ruffat and Zahid came away with one wicket each.

Determined to roll up the match as quickly as possible, Eiaz and Inam opened the innings for Evershine and both were quite upto the mark as they hammered 40 runs in the first 4 overs and kept on thrashing all the bowlers till the 12th over when Eiaz gave an easy return catch to Lucas, with the total at 93



Dexter: 4 wickets

and his individual at 32. Aijmal, who came in for just a while, put in a quick 18 runs. Inam, who remained at the crease for 20 overs was bowled at the total of 140 for 62 runs, which included one six and 4 boundaries. Evershine crossed the required target in 20th over.

For Unity, Lucas picked up 1 wicket and Chris bagged the other 2 wickets.

Social Cricket Club continued their winning spree by recording another emphatic 102-run victory over Hubara Cricket Club in the "A" division Burud Trophy tournament, organised by the Gulf Cricket League, at the EPI grounds.

Socials, after winning the toss, hit 182 for 9 in their allotted 30 overs and bundled out Hubara for a paltry 80 runs.

Hubara never looked like getting 6 runs per over to win the match despite a steady 34 from J.B. Patel, Jacob (16) and Bond with 19

British soccer

LONDON, Dec 11, (Reuters)—Results of British soccer matches yesterday.

English Division Two
Plymouth 0 Portsmouth 2
Swindon 0 Sheffield U 2

Italian ace
BOLOGNA, Italy, Dec 11, (AP)—Roberto Tomba, Italy's No. 1 skier, will be sidelined for at least one month with a broken collarbone, doctors reported today.

Skating event
Stena, Norway, Dec 11, (AP)—Dutchman Bart Veldkamp won the fastest 5,000-metre speed skating event ever in Norway yesterday in 6:59.56 minutes.

Strobl wins
STEAMBOAT SPRINGS, Colorado, Dec 11, (AP)—A disbelieving Claudia Strobl of Austria recorded her first World Cup victory yesterday, overtaking first-run leader Karin Buder in a women's slalom.

Nikkola triumphs
LAKE PLACID, New York, Dec 11, (AP)—Finland's Ari-Pekka Nikkola won the Volvo Cup 70-metre ski jumping competition yesterday at the Olympic Jumping Complex and moved to the top of the international standings.

Marathon race
SAN DIEGO, Dec 11, (AP)—Unknown Ernesto Estriz of Mexico City, whose friends took up a collection to pay his bus fare to California, won \$5,000 yesterday with an unexpected victory in the San Diego international marathon.

Robert-Naali wins
HONOLULU, Hawaii, Dec 11, (UPI)—Simon Robert-Naali of Tanzania ignored windy conditions to blow out the competition in the 17th Honolulu marathon yesterday. Robert-Naali, 23, who led this year's Boston marathon for 13 miles (20 km), covered the 26.2-mile (42-km) distance in 2:11:47, just four seconds off the course record set by Ibrahim Hussein of Kenya in 1986.

Sprint champion
KARUIAWA, Japan, Dec 11, (UPI)—World sprint champion Boitie Blair of the United States broke the East German sweep in the second World Cup Skating Championships yesterday, winning the women's 1,000-metre.

NHL games
NEW YORK, Dec 11, (Reuters)—Results of National Hockey League (NHL) games played yesterday:
LA Kings 6 Quebec N 4
Winnipeg 4 Calgary F 1
Buffalo 5 Washington C 3
Philadelphia F 4 NY Rangers 2
Chicago B H Vancouver C 1

Epee tourney
DENVER, Dec 11, (AP)—Allain Cote of Canada and Ute Schaefer of West Germany captured the men's and women's titles yesterday in the 1989 Centennial Epee Tournament.

World's best
SALT LAKE CITY, Dec 11, (AP)—Gunde Svane showed once again why he is considered the world's best cross-country skier, leading Sweden's four-man relay team to victory in the FIS Folkland World Cup races yesterday.

Japanese Open
TOKYO, Japan, Dec 11, (UPI)—The 1990 Suntory Japanese

McEnroe maintains family tradition

LONDON, Dec 11, (Reuters): Patrick McEnroe put the family name back on the Master doubles trophy yesterday.

He teamed up with fellow American Jim Grabb to beat Wimbledon champions John Fitzgerald and Anders Jarryd 7-5, 7-6, 5-7, 6-3 to win the title his older brother John won with Peter Fleming seven years running from 1978 to 1984.

Afterwards McEnroe said: "It's nice to have done something John has done. This is the first title we have won since the French Open. Now we have proved to ourselves we can beat the world's top teams—and that's very important to us."

McEnroe and Grabb, who also beat Aus-

tralian Fitzgerald and Sweden's Jarryd on the way to winning the French title in June, always looked the more confident pair in the final.

Fitzgerald and Jarryd had their chances in both the second and fourth sets. They had a set point against Grabb's service in the 10th game of the second set but were denied by the service winner and they broke McEnroe's serve for 2-1

in the fourth.

But in the end the sharper play of the fourth-seeded Americans, who went through the tournament unbeaten, proved decisive.

Fitzgerald admitted that he was surprised by McEnroe's performance. "He has improved a lot, particularly with his service, since we played in the French."

Evert bids farewell to tennis

ATLANTA, Dec 11, (UPI): Chris Evert bid farewell yesterday to two decades of championship tennis with a come-from-behind win over longtime friend and onetime nemesis Martina Navratilova.

Evert recovered from a sluggish first set to post a 4-6, 6-3, 6-2 victory over Navratilova in an exhibition before 12,000 at the Omni. The event was the final stop on a six-city tour billed as Evert's farewell to bigtime tennis.

Evert, who says she plans to start a family with her husband, former Olympic skier Andy Mill, retired from competition in October after leading the US team to the Federation Cup title. But Evert left open the possibility of playing a few exhibitions next year.

"Well done, Chris," congratulated Navratilova, who holds a 43-37 lead in their rivalry. "It's been a great year. It's been a great 18 years. It's been a lot of fun sharing the court with you and a friendship with you."

Evert, who has won a record 157 tournament, including 18 Grand Slam titles, said the exhibition allowed her to relax and play more aggressively.

"The first set she played flawlessly," said Evert. "Then she kind of felt sorry for me in the second set and let me back into it. I got into the match and played well."

Evert, who will turn 35 on Dec 21, stole a tactic from her chief rival yesterday to claim the



Evert: won 157 tournaments

match.

After using a perfect lob to break Navratilova's serve in the opening game of the final set, Evert played a more aggressive game, taking the net away from the world's No. 2 player and repeatedly knocking off volley and overhead winners.

Evert took a 4-0 lead in the final set before Navratilova held serve. Each player then held serve before Evert closed out the match, using two forehand ground stroke winners to carry her to match point and winning

when a Navratilova backhand clipped the top of the net.

The two players battled to 4-4 in the opening set before Navratilova held serve for a 5-4 lead. Navratilova then closed out the one-hour first set with a volley that landed on the baseline, producing a backhand error from Evert.

In the second set, Evert achieved the critical break in the eighth game with an over the baseline before firing her second ace to even the match at a set apiece.

Schultz and Ogrin triumph

WEST PALM BEACH, Fla., Dec 11, (Reuters): David Ogrin and Ted Schultz rallied from four shots back with 13 holes to play to win the PGA's \$600,000 Team Championship by two strokes yesterday.

The pair teamed for a final round seven-under-par 65 for a 31-under 257 total worth \$50,000 to each player.

Charlie Epps and Blaine McCallister, who also turned in a final round 65, finished second at 259. Third round leaders Mike Hulbert and Bob Tway could only manage an even-par 72 yesterday and finished in third place at 260.

The Hulbert/Tway team birdied two of their first four holes to reach 30-under-par and increased their lead to four strokes over Schultz and Ogrin.

Schultz, who also carded a pair of early birdies, added birdies on the sixth and eighth holes to cut the margin to two strokes at the turn.

On the back nine Ogrin canned a 15-foot birdie on 10 and an 18-foot birdie on 12 to draw even with Hulbert and Tway.

Disaster struck: that third round leaders on holes 13 and 14 when Hulbert missed short par putts to lose the lead.

"I feel sick," Hulbert said. "It looked like I was going to make a birdie at number 13 and I turned it into a bogey. When I needed to do the job for the team, I just didn't do it," he lamented.

While Hulbert/Tway were fading, Epps and McCallister made their bid for the title with four birdies on the front nine and birdies on 10 and 17 to trail by one stroke with one hole remaining.

Ogrin put the tournament on ice with a 35-foot birdie putt on the final hole.

The key to the win was avoiding the bogey man? Ogrin said: "All week long Ted (Schultz) was a rock. On the front nine he was the hero and on the back nine I was the star."

Agassi wins \$297,800

Connors defaults in 2nd set



Andre Agassi

PALM COAST, Florida, Dec 11, (UPI): Andre Agassi, seeking to claw back into a best-of-three final after losing the first set, unexpectedly won \$297,800 yesterday when Jimmy Connors withdrew from the Stakes match due to a knee injury.

Connors, 37, on the final four games of the opening set after trailing 4-2 and went up 1-0 in the second set. Agassi, 19, won the next two games to go ahead 2-1 and switched sides following the change-over. After consulting with tournament trainer Bob Russo, Connors withdrew because of tendinitis in his left knee.

"I've had a knee problem for six or seven months and it comes and goes," said Connors, who settled for a second-place cheque of \$135,700. "It first bothered me when it was 3-2 in the first set and got progressively worse. The cold weather didn't help."

An estimated crowd of 2,000 braved overcast skies and tem-

peratures in the low 40s as both players competed in warmup pants. Connors also wore a white sock stretched over his left arm throughout the match.

"I'm not two per cent as excited as I'd be if I would have beaten him," said Agassi, who has defeated Connors in the quarterfinals of the US Open the past two years. "I don't even feel the money's mine, but I'll take it. He started limping late in the first set, but he's looked hurt against me before. In the open, he looked like he was hurting, but he played strongly the rest of the match."

Connors won the first two games of yesterday's final before Agassi's deep, angled ground-strokes forced Connors on the defensive. Two straight service breaks put Agassi ahead 3-2 and Connors hit a cross-court forehand wide to end the sixth game.

A more aggressive Connors held and then broke to forge a 4-4 tie, coming in to win 16 of 23 points at the net in the first set.

Trailing 5-4, Agassi fought off two set points before hitting a lob past the end line. Connors finished the 46-minute set by bringing Agassi in and then passing him easily with a cross-court forehand.

"I went out there with a game plan," said Connors. "I stuck to it and it worked. I know both of us have to do a lot of running and I need to be able to dig in and pivot, grinding out the points. Now, I'm off until February. The only thing this injury will hurt is my skiing plans."

Connors netted a backhand to end the third game of 'second set. Assessed a delay of match warning as he consulted with Russo, Connors snapped at the chair umpire: "I'm not exactly sitting here picking my nose."

Brad Gilbert won \$118,400 and Aaron Krickstein, a last-minute substitute for the injured Michael Chang, earned \$98,100 in a round-robin format that also rewards aces and service breaks.

Sikma helps Bucks defeat Trail Blazers

MILWAUKEE, Dec 11, (AP): Jack Sikma scored 16 of his season-high 30 points in the fourth quarter and Mike Dunleavy and Frank Kornet each added nine in the final quarter as the Milwaukee Bucks defeated the Portland Trail Blazers 107-104.

The Bucks snapped a four-game losing streak with yesterday's victory.

Sikma scored 10 of his 16 points in the fourth quarter on free throws. The Bucks made all 13 of their free throw attempts in the final 4:49 to hold off Portland.

Clyde Drexler scored a season-high 36 points and Terry Porter added 25, including two three-pointers in the final quarter, for the Trail Blazers.

Trailing 70-65 entering the fourth quarter, the Bucks outscored the Trail Blazers 13-2 and took a 78-72 lead on Kornet's basket after a steal by Paul Pierce. Kornet scored 10 points during the run.

Magic 108, Lakers 103

Sam Vincent scored 11 fourth-quarter points and keyed a game-ending 23-4 run that carried the Orlando Magic to a 108-103 victory over the Los Angeles Lakers.

The victory was the fifth for the first-year Magic (8-11) against a playoff team from last season and gave Orlando the NBA record for the best start by an expansion team after 19 games.

Standings				
Standing of national basketball association teams after games played on Sunday (tabulate under won, lost, winning percentage, games back)				
Eastern Conference				
Atlantic Division				
	W	L	Pct.	GB
New York	12	7	.632	—
Philadelphia	10	8	.556	1-1/2
Boston	11	9	.550	1-1/2
Washington	9	11	.450	3-1/2
New Jersey	5	13	.278	6-1/2
Miami	5	16	.238	8
Central Division				
	W	L	Pct.	GB
Indiana	11	5	.688	—
Atlanta	12	6	.667	—
Detroit	12	7	.632	1/2
Chicago	11	7	.611	1
Milwaukee	8	10	.444	4
Western Conference				
Midwest Division				
	W	L	Pct.	GB
San Antonio	12	5	.706	—
Utah	12	5	.706	—
Denver	13	6	.684	—
Houston	9	10	.474	4
Dallas	8	9	.471	4
Minnesota	5	13	.278	7-1/2
Charlotte	3	15	.167	9-1/2
Pacific Division				
	W	L	Pct.	GB
L.A. Lakers	14	5	.737	—
Portland	15	6	.714	—
Seattle	11	7	.611	3
Phoenix	7	8	.467	5-1/2
Sacramento	6	11	.353	7-1/2
L.A. Clippers	6	11	.353	7-1/2
Golden State	4	14	.222	10

Athlete dies during race

PALMA DE MAJORCA, Spain, Dec 11, (AP): John Norman, a 53-year-old Briton, died while running in the sixth international Costa de Calvia marathon race yesterday, police said.

Police said Norman fell on the ground at the 34th kilometer mark of the 42-kilometre (26-mile) race. He was rushed to hospital but he was dead on arrival.

An autopsy was to be performed to determine the cause of his death.

Norman's home town address was not immediately available.

Jose de Souza of Brazil was the winner of the race, entered by 658 athletes, in 2:14.49 ahead of Gareth Spring of Britain who was second in 2:16.53, followed by Ahmadass Hamshari of Jordan in 2:18.13.

Soviet player takes lead

PALMA DE MAJORCA, Spain, Dec 11, (AP): European junior champion Boris Gelfand of the Soviet Union took the lead in the standings of the qualifying tournament for the World Cup of chess, scoring his fifth straight victory in the fifth round yesterday.

Gelfand defeated Michael Adams of Britain to lead with five points.

Adams has four points along with Daniel King of Britain, Josef Klinger of Austria, and seven other Soviet players.

The seven Soviet players also with four points were Mikhail Gurevich, who is the world's seventh-ranked player, Sergey Makarichev, Vitaly Tsechovskiy, Oleg Romanishin, Vladimir Akopian, Miodras Torodovic and Viktor Gavrikov.

Gavrikov drew with King, Klinger drew with Akopian, Romanishin defeated Aleks Wojtkiewicz of Poland, Torodovic defeated Alfredo Romero of Spain, Atilla Groszpeier of Hungary defeated Gurevich, Makarichev defeated Vladimir Tukmakov of the Soviet Union, and Tsechovskiy drew with Yuri Razuvayev of the Soviet Union.

North Korean takes crown

JONKOPING, Sweden, Dec 11, (AP): Li Gun Sang of North Korea defeated Yoo Nam Kyu of South Korea in four sets yesterday to win the men's singles title in the Swedish Open table tennis championships for the first time.

The scores were 21-15, 21-14, 21-23, 21-10. Li, one of the world's premier defensive players and ranked 18th in the world, also was a member of the North Korean team that upset world champion Sweden 3-1 in the men's team final Friday.

Li advanced to the final with a 21-10, 21-12, 21-7 win over Ma Wenge of China. Yoo overcame Xu Zengxia, another Chinese, 19-21, 21-16, 22-20, 18-21, 21-16 in the other semifinal.

The men's doubles title went to Jean-Philippe Gatten of France and Andrzej Gruba of Poland, who beat the Swedish team of Jan-Ove Waldner and Mikael Appelgren 14-21, 21-14, 21-13.

\$1 million prize

South African David Frost holds up a cheque for \$1 million after winning the Sun City Million Dollar Challenge on Sunday. (Reuters wirephoto)



555
Stands out for taste

Government Warning: Smoking is a major cause of cancer and diseases of the lungs, heart and arteries.

SPORTS

FOOTBALL

Wegerle stakes US claim

LONDON, Dec 11, (Reuters): Luton's South African-born striker Roy Wegerle moved to First Division rivals Queens Park Rangers for £1 million (\$1.6 million) today — and immediately staked a claim to play for the United States in June's World Cup.

Wegerle, 25, is eligible to play international soccer for five countries because of his cosmopolitan upbringing.

He could represent Scotland (his mother's birthplace), West Germany (father's birthplace), England (where he has qualified for residence), the United States (his wife's nationality) and South Africa — although his birthplace is banned from competition by Fifa.

Loyalty

Of all these, he prefers the United States, even though they have been rated a 1,500-1 shot to lift the Cup in Italy.

"I feel more loyalty to them because it's my wife's country," Wegerle said. "They approached me to play and it just seems a case of whether I can get citizenship formalities completed in time."

Soccer is not widely followed in the United States, where basketball, baseball and American football hog most sports fans' attention. Their team qualified for next year's World Cup finals for the first time in 40 years.

And although Luton will be sorry to see him go, their profit on the deal should sugar the pill for manager Ray Harford. They signed Wegerle from Chelsea at the start of last season for just £75,000 (\$120,000).

Razdan takes three wickets

Pakistan struggle for runs

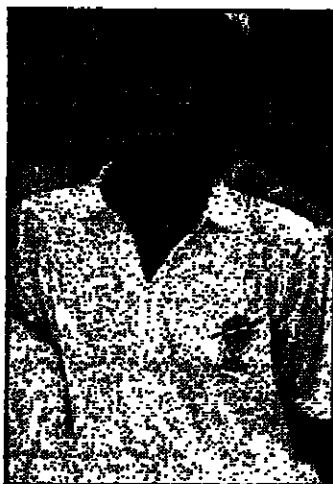
SIALKOT, Pakistan, Dec 11, (Reuters): Pakistan, tied down by keen Indian bowling, struggled to 181 for five in their first innings on an incident-filled third day of the decisive fourth cricket Test today.

Replying to India's first innings of 324, Pakistan found run-making difficult on a lively Jinnah stadium pitch where the ball seamed and swung all day.

India's hero was 20-year-old Delhi seam bowler Vivek Razdan who captured three wickets in only his second Test to give his side a slight upper hand in the match, which resumes on Wednesday after tomorrow's rest day.

Razdan claimed the important wickets of Rameez Raja, Shoaib Mohammad and Salim Malik to leave his side in a strong position after Pakistan had begun the day at 23 for one with Rameez on nine and Shoaib three.

After 205 minutes were lost on



Vivek Razdan

the first two days due to bad weather, there was a further stoppage of nearly 30 minutes when the crowd threw orange peel at Indian fielders, prompting Eng-

lish umpires John Holder and John Hampshire to take the players off the field.

At the close 12 overs early because of lengthening shadows on the pitch, Imran Khan was on 21 and Nadeem Abbasi seven.

Razdan finished with three for 68 from 20 overs, but it was veteran Kapil Dev who kept the Pakistanis on a tight leash, his figures of one for 29 from 24 overs testament to his sustained accuracy.

opener Rameez was 'Pakistan's top scorer with a resolute 56, including three fours, from 142 deliveries in 239 minutes at the wicket.

But Shoaib and Javed Miandad, century-makers in the drawn third Test at Lahore, failed with the bat managing only 23 and seven respectively.

While Shoaib became Razdan's first Test victim, Miandad was caught at the wicket of a Kapil Dev and Rameez was

removed by Razdan.

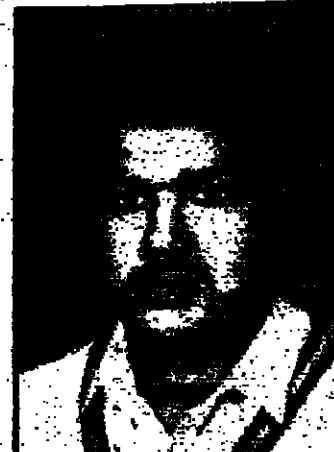
Razdan took his third wicket in the final session when Salim Malik, after scoring 34 in nearly two hours at the wicket, lost his concentration and skied a simple catch to Ravi Shastri at mid-on with the total at 170.

Scoreboard

INDIA first innings 324 (Sanjay Manjrekar 72, Mohammed Azharuddin 52, Wasim Akram five for 101)
PAKISTAN first innings (overnight 23 for one)
Aamer Malik lbw b Prabhakar 9
Rameez Raja b Razdan 56
Shoaib Mohammad b Razdan 23
Javed Miandad c More b Kapil Dev 37
Salim Malik c Shastri b Razdan 34
Imran Khan not out 21
Nadeem Abbasi not out 7
Extras (b-2 lb-20 nb-1 w-1) 24
Total (five wickets) 181
Fall of wickets: 1-11 2-76 3-97 4-133 5-170

To bat: Wasim Akram, Abdul Qadir, Zaheer Khan, Waqar Younis.
Bowling (to date): Kapil Dev 24-11-29-1, Prabhakar 28-7-38-1, Razdan 20-3-68-3, Maninder Singh 1-0-4-0.

Kifco, Moghul and MCC triumph



Shahid Butt

KUWAIT International Finance Company (Kifco) registered an easy victory over their arch-rival Starlite in the semifinal of Rothman's Trophy at KOC ground in Ahmadi on Friday.

The highlight of the match was a hostile and devastating piece of bowling by Kifco's Shahid Butt who totally destroyed the upper-order batting by claiming five for 30.

After winning the toss, Mansoor Khan, skipper of Kifco, elected to bat first. The opening partnership of Arshad Shams and Pervez Aslam yielded 36 runs in only 4 overs before Pervez Aslam was out having misjudged a full toss from Ejaz Butt. Nasir Ahmed and Arshad Shams kept up the pace and when Arshad Shams departed for 49, the pair had already put on 83 runs for the second wicket. It was a classic innings from Arshad Shams which contained 4 fours and 2 sixes.

Another partnership of over 50 runs was registered between Shahid Pervez and Nasir Ahmed. The pair exploited the defensive field of Starlite and made most of their runs in one and two with occasional boundaries. The Starlite bowlers maintained a slow rate of overs per minute in order to restrict Kifco from scoring a huge total.

Kifco batted at this stage tried to speed up the run-rate a bit further and in the process lost 3 quick wickets of Shahid, Amina and Nasir. A whirlwind partnership between Rashid Ansari and Aqueel Ashraf produced 33 valuable runs before Rashid got run out.

The Starlite bowlers could only bowl 23 overs in which Kifco managed to score 182 runs at the rate of 7.91 runs per over. Ejaz Butt was the most successful bowler with 4 wickets for 41.

Starlite opened their innings rather too aggressively as the opening pair started trying to hit every ball for either four or six, but after initial success their run-rate were reduced.

Kabul Rizvi was first to go, caught by Aqueel Ashraf off Shahid Butt, followed by Zia, run-out on an excellent fielding combination of Rashid Ansari and Nasir Ahmed.

Shahid Butt, bowling with telling effect and generating tremendous speed off the wicket, created a havoc in



Ghulam Mustafa

his 4th over as he claimed 3 wickets off four balls. Shahid Pervez, on the other hand, had Rader caught by Rashid and the Starlite batting was in shambles at 59 for 6. Shahid Butt coming back to bowl his 5th over, struck again as he had Maqsood caught by Rafiq Butt and Maqsood lost his wicket to Shahid Pervez to leave Starlite reeling at 75 for 8. Rafiq Butt and Aqueel Ashraf shared the last two wickets as the Starlite were all out for 97 in 21st over and losing the match by 85 runs.

Shahid Butt 5 for 30, Shahid Pervez 2 for 26, Aqueel Ashraf 1 for 7 and Rafiq Butt 1 for 9 shared the bowling honours for Kifco.

Moghul Cricket Club (MCC) beat Capri Cricket Club in a KCL Cup cricket match at the NC ground on Friday.

Battling first, Capri were all out for 154 in 26.1 overs. Capri had started their innings badly by losing Sajid Sharif off the first ball while the second opener was also bowled by Zaid in the second over. Zaid then took his third wicket to dismiss Lal to leave Capri at nine for three.

Bitu Singh and Navod repaired the damage to some extent before the latter was out for 29 with the score at 48. Bitu Singh went on to score 30, Irfan Ali 19, Vinod Patel 17 and Navod 26.

Zaid was the main wicket-taker with three for 26 while Maqbool and Saif took two wickets each. Ishaiq and Naseem Butt also took one wicket each.

Ghulam Mustafa and Maqbool gave MCC a good start by putting on 43 runs in the first seven overs before the latter was caught behind the wicket off Sajid Raza for 18. Two more wickets fell quickly and Sajid Raza bowled Saad a few minutes later to leave MCC at 59 for four.

Zagar and Mustafa took the score to 97 before Zagar was out but Mustafa kept playing with a lot of con-

fidence and was on 77 before he was finally run out.

Naseem remained unbeaten on 34 before the umpires called the play off when MCC were 152 for six in the 25th over. As Capri had scored 152 for nine at the same stage of their innings, MCC were declared winners by virtue of having lost fewer wickets.

For Capri, Sajid Raza took two wickets for 21 runs while Naseem got two for 22 and Bitu Singh one for 20. Ghulam Mustafa took the Man of the Match award.

MCC will meet Evergreen in their next match, the first round of the Patrons Trophy at the EPI ground at 1.00pm.

Canit Cricket Club defeated Salama Cricketers by 40 runs in a friendly match at the Old Salama Ground on Friday.

After winning the toss for first time in the current season, Canit skipper Shariq opted to bat. The opener gave their team a good start and scored 31 before the dismissal of Abbas.

Darriyl and Maqsood scored 46 quick runs each as Canit put on 144 runs for the loss of 5 wickets in 20 allotted overs.

Siraj was the top scorer with 56. The other scorers were Maqsood 24, Darriyl 22, Abbas 14, and Aslam 11. For Salama Cricketers, Aslam Fani grabbed two wickets for 21 in four overs while Sohail got 1 for 24, Liaqat 1 for 20 and Shahid Mirza took the last wicket for 12.

Salama Cricketers were given a target of 7.2 runs per over. This put an extra pressure on them and they started losing their wickets at regular intervals. They scored only 104 runs in the allotted 20 overs. Shahid Mirza 23 (n.o.), Liaqat 20, Aslam Fani 16 and Fayyaz 11 were the main scorers. For Canit Abbas, Darriyl, Maqsood and Rizvi bowled four overs each and took two wickets each. Siraj was named Man of the Match.

SPORTS BRIEFS

Sana tourney: Sports Lovers defeated Kheitan Soccer Lovers (B) 1-0 in a Sana Football Tournament match in Fahheel on Friday. The only goal for the winners was scored by Batu in the 10th minute. In the second match, Puthanthope beat City Sports Club 2-1. Tony and Manoj score for Puthanthope while Abdul Rahman got the goal for City. On this Friday United Sporting Club (Yellow) meet Challengers Sports Club at 7.15 am while United Sporting Club (Blues) face City Sports Club at 8.30 am at the Fahheel Ground, behind Fahheel Cinema.

Table tennis: The IAC is organising a table tennis tourney, the Mitsubishi-IAC TT competition, at the IAC from Dec 29 - Jan 5. The competition is open to all members of IAC, their families and their guests. The organisers will be holding events for ladies, gents and juniors. Altogether nine events will be taking place. All those wishing to participate should call Vijay Sharma at 2644863, Jagdish at 2433552, or the IAC office at 3904817 (after 7.00 pm) for entry passes and details. The last date for entry is Dec 20 and draws will take place on 22nd.

Volleyball title: The Soviet Union rallied from two sets down to beat Brazil and win the Women's Junior Volleyball World Championship. The undefeated Soviet team yesterday downed Brazil 9-15, 8-15, 15-12, 15-6 and 15-9 at the end of the weeklong tournament in Curitiba, 523 miles (840 kilometres) southwest of Rio de Janeiro.

Australian Open: World number one Ivan Lendl heads a list of 12 of the world's top 20 tennis players who have entered next month's Australian Open, officials said today. West German arch-rival Boris Becker, Masters champion Stefan Edberg of Sweden and fourth-ranked American John McEnroe also will play.

World championship: A world championship for marathon automobile rallies, such as the Paris-Dakar race, could be set up by the International Automobile Sports Federation (Fisa).

Czech goalkeeper: West Ham United are giving a week's trial to Czechoslovakia's World Cup goalkeeper, Ludek Mislisko. The 28-year-old, 6ft 2in player, from the Banik Ostrava club, has been capped 58 times.

Money earnings: Masashi "Jumbo" Ozaki, who won seven tournaments, led the Japan PGA Tour in money earnings this season with 108.72 million yen (\$754,972), the Japan Professional Golfers Association announced yesterday.

Joint inquiry: Middlesbrough soccer club and Cleveland police are to hold a joint inquiry into crowd trouble at the Second Division game with Leeds, Saturday, officials said yesterday.

Platini to stay France's coach

PARIS, Dec 11, (Reuters): Michel Platini announced today that he would stay on as France's national soccer coach until the 1994 World Cup.

The former international midfielder, who replaced Henri Michel as France's coach a year ago, denied media reports that he had been offered a job with his former Italian club Juventus. His contract was due to expire at the end of the year.

Platini said he would sign a new four-and-a-half year contract on Friday with a clause allowing him to end it at any time.

"It has been a difficult decision to take. I did not want to be tied to a contract. But the conditions I have been granted should allow me to do some good work," he said.



Bushnaq about to receive his prize.



Strakos receives her medal.



Aman and Fairouz collect their trophies.



Karkova receives her doubles trophy.



Fahd Al Ibrahim: under-12 singles runner-up



Olga (left) and Filiz: doubles runners-up

Bushnaq and Strakos shine

SALEH BUSHNAQ and Anna Strakos took the men's and women's open singles titles respectively at the 4th Tennis Open Championship, organised by Kuwait's Ministry of Electricity and Water at the Ramada Al Salam Courts on Sunday evening.

Bushnaq was unlucky not to gain a second crown when he, partnered by Mohammed Al Ali, lost to Aiman Al Ashwak and Hashem Fairouz in the men's doubles.

Aiman had earlier on lost to Bushnaq in the men's singles final.

Anna Strakos, however, finished with three titles in the tournament, held under the

patronage of Electricity and Water Minister Dr Hmoud Al Rqabah. First she beat Dalia Zaki in the women's final, then she and Karkova took the women's doubles by beating Olga Kay and Filiz Avcı and finally Strakos beat Linda Alton to take the under-16 title.

Over 250 players took part in the championship. The Ministry of Electricity Undersecretary and chairman of the organising committee, Sami Al Ibrahim and Social Affairs Ministry Assistant Undersecretary Abdul Rahman Al Mazroui attended the finals.

Other results

Under - 18 men's singles: Winner: Adel Al

Shatti, runner-up: Waleed Al Bannai.

Under - 18 men's doubles: Winners: Abdulla Abdul Aziz and Khaled Al Ashwak, runners-up: Fuad Al Gharib and Adel Al Shatti.

Under - 14 men's singles: winner: Yousef Al Aryan, runner-up: Talal Aashour.

Under - 14 men's doubles: Winners: Yousef Al Aryan and Tala Aashour, runners-up: Michal Khwatal and Orsh Quire.

Under - 12 singles: Winner: Mohammad Hasan Rashed, runner-up: Fahd Sami Al Ibrahim.

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